5 KERRISTMAS POSTERS! + EXCLUSIVE MCR POSTER!

+ GREEN DAY AND AVENGED WRAPPING PAPER!

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WE'RE DREAMING OF A

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ANDY BIERSACK INTRODUCES YOUR BUMPER ALL-STAR ISSUE!

FEATURING NEW INTERVIEWS WITH

BRING ME THE HORIZON
GERARD WAY ALL TIME LOW
WATIC FOO FIGHTERS SLIPKNOT
OZZY FALL OUT BOY

AND SLEIGH-LOADS MORE!

"OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY PLANS ARE CRAZY!"

YOU ME AT SIX

THE BIG INTERVIEW

ISSUE NO 1548
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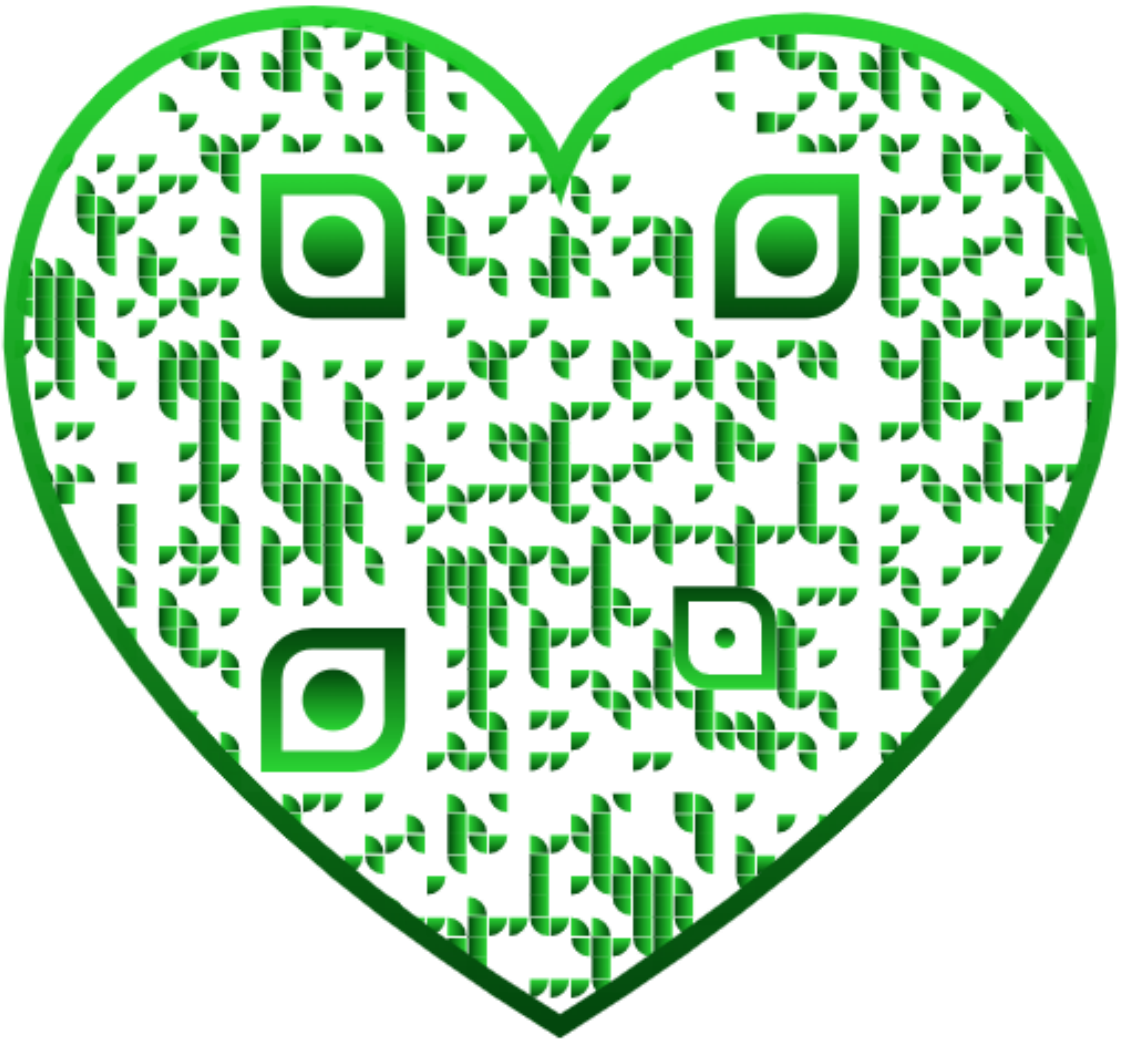
THE QUEEN'S SPEECH! SHARON OSBOURNE POPS BY!

CELEB TRACK REVIEWS! PETER ANDRE LOVES MCR!

A DAY TO REMEMBER! PRESENT THEIR XMAS QUIZ!



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"STUPIDITY WAS NEVER SO FUNNY"

Alan Frank - Daily Star

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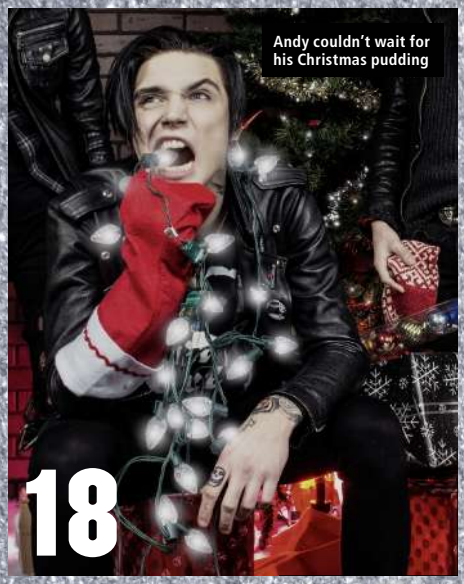

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Merry Christmas, Love Kerrang!

COVER PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

HELLO, READERS,
Can you believe it's Christmas again already? It feels like just yesterday that we ate that whole pack of mince pies and spent the rest of the evening feeling sorry for ourselves. Oh wait, that was yesterday... it's been hard putting this double issue together, okay?! But we managed it, and it's done – all full of rock's biggest stars, like Gerard Way, Dave Grohl and Pete Wentz, talking about what a great year they had. There are also some Christmas posters to make your bedroom extra festive, Peter Andre reviewing Behemoth (yes, you read that right) and a special message from the lovely Sharon Osbourne. But, this is more than just an issue full of great stuff to keep you occupied while you sit round your nan's watching the Christmas edition of Songs Of Praise. It's our gift to you to say thanks for being the best readers we could ask for.
Merry Christmas!

NEWS

WE WISH YOU A MERRY YMAS...

"2015 WILL BE EVEN

"Hair-visor... ACTIVATE!"

President Franceschi outside the White House

Josh having T In The Park with Ed Sheeran

BIGGER!

WITH A NUMBER ONE RECORD, KILLER TOURS AND HUGE FESTIVAL SLOTS UNDER THEIR BELT, 2014'S BEEN AMAZING FOR YOU ME AT SIX. BUT 2015 IS THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY – AND IT ALREADY LOOKS SET TO BE EVEN BETTER…

It's been nothing short of a landmark 12 months for Josh Franceschi and You Me At Six: they've released a blinding record, won two Relentless Kerrang! Awards and rocked Reading, Leeds, T In The Park and venues across the U.S. and beyond. With the band's monolithic co-headline tour with All Time Low now looming large, what better time to catch up with the Surrey superstars to chat all things 2014? Oh yeah, and to get a sneaky peek of what the boys are up to once they've seen in the new year…

HI, JOSH. IT'S BEEN ONE HELL OF A BUSY YEAR FOR YOU SINCE CAVALIER YOUTH CAME OUT IN JANUARY, HUH?

"Yeah, it really has! We started the year out on tour with Paramore in Australia, and then we went into Europe and did a whole bunch of stuff including loads of radio performances with just me and Max [Helyer] on an acoustic guitar. That was, like, 15 weeks straight of touring, or something silly, and I ended up getting pretty ill in the end. I was told by the doctors to rest my vocal cords, and that meant that we had to postpone our U.S. tour in April, which was really horrible – definitely not a highlight of the year!"

IT MUST HAVE BEEN TOUGH WANTING TO TOUR A NEW ALBUM BUT HAVING TO STAY HOME AND REST…

"It really was. Obviously it's never nice to cancel shows, but especially with a new album out it was frustrating. Probably the worst thing, though, was that I'd be in all these interviews and American journalists would be asking me, 'Oh, are you the new [Glassjaw and Head Automatica vocalist] Daryl Palumbo?' I thought that was really disrespectful because

Josh, some bloke called Alex Gaskarth, and Dan at Reading

WORDS: TOMAS DOYLE PHOTOS: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

Max: defiantly rocking the quiff look

And the winner of blurriest selfie is...

The black snow froze Josh instantly...

Daryl's illness [he has the long-term condition Crohn's disease] has meant that, in my opinion, Glassjaw and Head Automatica haven't been able to get to the heights they might otherwise have achieved. This was a totally different thing!"

IF THAT WAS A LOW, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY HAS BEEN 2014'S HIGH, THEN?

"I'd have to say that going to the Philippines was an unbelievable thing for us this year. It's somewhere we'd never been and somewhere I never really dreamed we'd be able to go! We got to Manila and had this armed police escort out to a shopping centre where we did this press conference. I remember looking over the edge of a balcony on this place and there being thousands of people going nuts. When we played it was incredible, too. Normally in a place where you've never been before, you have to work the crowd a bit, y'know, get them into the swing of things, but there it was crazy from the very first note. I guess out there, where western bands don't get to go so much, those kind of shows are a really big deal – hopefully we'll get to go back out there again sometime!"

AND YOU ALSO RELEASED A SPECIAL EDITION OF CAVALIER YOUTH TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR, FEATURING A STRING QUARTET NO LESS!

"Yeah, that was something incredible, too! We got to go to Dean Street Studios and work with a guy called Stephen Street who has done stuff with Morrissey and Blur and people like that. It was pretty incredible to be able to have someone of that calibre helping us out with something that I think really adds to the Cavalier Youth package. Honestly, if you'd have told me at the start of this year we'd be getting to work with people like that, I'd have ripped your arm off for the chance to do so!"

This new Fall Out At Six band were cleaning up...

AND THEN YOU BROUGHT YOUR STRING QUARTET TO READING FESTIVAL...
"(*Laughs*) Yep, that was an unusual but fun show. It was definitely a good laugh to do something secret like that – or at least it was secret until we leaked the news everywhere! I remember walking out and being amazed at how many people had showed up, thinking, 'There are loads of really decent bands playing all over this festival right now, and people have decided to come and watch us play some acoustic songs with some strings!' Festival season was great for us generally, in fact. We got to do a bunch of European festivals like Rock am Ring in Germany, which was

"WE LEAKED OUR OWN SECRET SHOW!"

fantastic. In fact, there was a six-week period where we'd basically only spend three days at home and then spend four days a week heading out and playing these awesome open-air stages. It was definitely a summer we won't forget in a hurry!"

IT FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN A BIT OF A WEIRD YEAR FOR THE SCENE IN GENERAL, WITH LOTS OF BANDS SPLITTING UP. DOES THAT MAKE YOU REFLECTIVE?
"It's been a terrible year for that, it really has. Look at a band like Kids In Glass Houses, for example – I know we sort of came up at the same time as them, but when we used to tour lots together I viewed those guys as big brothers to us. Or a band like Canterbury – it's insane to me that a brilliant group like that can't carry on being a band. It's not because they don't want to do it anymore, but because there's only so long they can give up things in order just to be able to make music. We're incredibly lucky to be in the position we're in, and when you see things like that happening to friends in bands, it makes you doubly grateful for everything you have and realise it can all go away very quickly."

SO, WHAT DOES 2015 HOLD IN STORE FOR YOU ME AT SIX?
"Well, the main thing in the early part of next year is our arena tour with All Time Low, which we're all super excited for – we've talked about doing this tour for ages! In fact, we spent the longest time trying to get the whole line-up of the Spring Fever Tour we did in America [with Mayday Parade, Pierce The Veil and All Time Low] over here, but it just wasn't possible, so eventually us and ATL were like, 'Fuck it, let's just do it!' From what I can tell, the tickets are going pretty quickly, so hopefully it will be a busy night and a really fun one, too."

ANYTHING ELSE LINED UP YOU CAN TELL US ABOUT? G'WAAARN!
"Well, there are a few things I *can't* tell you about right now, which are exciting! For us more immediately, we're stoked because we're going to do the Jimmy Kimmel Live! TV show in the States pretty soon, which is a really big deal for us. What I *can* say is that next year is basically the 10th anniversary of this band, and we will be announcing some pretty special stuff in the next few months that hopefully old school fans will really enjoy. Until then, though, people are just going to have to watch this space!"

YOU ME AT SIX TOUR WITH ALL TIME LOW IN FEBRUARY, SEE THE GIG GUIDE FOR INFO

MAX HELYER'S HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014

1. HITTING NUMBER ONE

"Releasing Cavalier Youth and having a Number One record was a big highlight. Due to the circumstances of having a new label and changing management, it felt like we had a new lease of life, and we got to make a record we really wanted to make. It's the first Number One, and hopefully it won't be the last one – we're hungrier after that; we want to make bigger and better records."

2. HEADLINING ALEXANDRA PALACE

"That was probably the best gig You Me At Six has ever played. A London show that goes smoothly is unheard of, but we were like, 'Nothing's gone wrong.' We all played amazingly and were all ecstatic – we want to take that and elaborate for next year's shows."

3. READING & LEEDS FESTIVALS

"It was our fifth time playing there, and being third from top on the Main Stage... I don't think a band from Surrey ever thought that would happen! To look out [at the crowd] and think, 'These people want to be here, they want to watch us' – that was a memorable part of our year."

4. U.S. SUCCESS WITH ROOM TO BREATHE

"Something's just connected for us over there. It feels like things are finally working for us in America, after five or six years of touring. We're going to radio stations, we're going to TV, people are paying attention to our band in America and it feels amazing. It shows the hard work we've put in there, growing it organically like we did here, is really starting to pay off."

5. PLAYING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

"We'd never done Manila, Kuala Lumpur or Singapore before, but the reaction just totally blew us away. Manila was, like, 2,400 people, which is amazing for your first time going to a country. It's going to be 10 years [as a band] for You Me At Six in 2015, so to see how far it's come over those 10 years is something we're always going to remember."

WORDS: MARK SUTHERLAND

You Me At 23-hours-away-from-home

Josh's half-arsed moonwalk didn't impress

FRESH BLOOD

ROCK'S BREAKING BANDS BY JENNYFER J. WALKER

MOOSE BLOOD

PULL UP A CHAIR AND PULL A CRACKER WITH CANTERBURY EMO-ROCKERS MOOSE BLOOD

UM, GUYS, RUDOLPH DOESN'T LOOK SO GOOD...

That's not a reindeer, you muppet. We're having moose – in honour of those hungry gents ready to carve up, Canterbury's Moose Blood. Now, pass us an antler. And while you're at it, why not head – ahem – over to Kerrang.com for a free download of their Decemberish, emo-flecked track, I Hope You're Missing Me. Frontman Eddy Brewerton (the one with the cutlery and butter-wouldn't-melt grin) describes it as "guitar-led emo pop". "We'd all played in hardcore bands before," he explains, "and just wanted to do something different."

SO, WHAT DOES DIFFERENT SOUND LIKE? OH, AND WHAT'S FOR DESSERT – CHOCOLATE MOOSE?

We'll make the jokes here, thanks. And it doesn't take a masters in psychology to figure out Moose Blood's main influences. Their debut album, I'll Keep You In Mind, From Time To Time, is littered with lyrical references to their favourite bands – just don't mention one of them, as it's a sore point. "It was just the stuff that I'd grown up listening to," says Eddy. "Jimmy Eat World, Taking Back Sunday, Glassjaw and every Brand New record… I haven't even seen Brand New live, though. Every show was either sold out or I couldn't make it. Everyone else in the band has seen them at least twice and always talks about how I've never seen them. It's horrible."

THAT'S SAD. BUT AN EMO RENAISSANCE ISN'T! LET ME FIRE UP THE OL' MYSPACE PAGE...

Slow down there, chriscarrabba4eva18 – there's more to these fellas than thrift-store sweaters and noughties nostalgia. Dealing with weighty subject matter such as Eddy's relationship with his wife and stepdaughter, and Mark [Osborne, guitar]'s bereavement of his father, the band's hazy punk hues gain their gravitational pull from a rawness and knack for candid storytelling that'd make Kim Kardashian blush. "We get that a lot, this whole 'emo revival' thing," admits Eddy. "I've never stopped listening to those records. So it never really went away for me. Lyrically, we just wanted it to be really honest. A lot has changed in our lives over the past few years, so there's a lot to draw from. The songs are about relationships and how hard and great they can be."

YOU KNOW WHAT ELSE IS GREAT? CHRISTMAS! HOW WILL THESE CHAPS BE SPENDING IT?

Well, having just finished a hefty UK jaunt with Mallory Knox and Frank Iero, you'd assume they'd be having a well-earned break. But then you'd be wronger than how eggnog, like, generally is. "We're going to spend the majority of December writing for a new record," says Eddy. "I'm itching to start knuckling down and writing again. My New Year's resolution is definitely to finish another record by the end of next year…" Now there's a New Year's resolution we can get on board with. Look forward to hearing it, lads!

(*From left*): Glenn Harvey (drums), Mark Osborne (guitar), Eddy Brewerton (vocals/guitar) Kyle Todd (bass)

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

FOR FANS OF: Brand New, Jimmy Eat World, Basement.
HEAR: I Hope You're Missing Me, which you can download free at Kerrang.com!
CHECK OUT: The video for Swim Down on YouTube.
MORE INFO: Facebook.com/mooseblood
DON'T MISS: Moose Blood and more killer new bands on Alex Baker's Fresh Blood show on Wednesdays at 10pm on K! Radio, and Kerrang! TV's #freshbloodfridays on Sky 368, Virgin 342 and Freesat 524.

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WORDS: TOM SHEPHERD PHOTO: DAVE WILLIS

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Band: The Mariana Hollow **Photo:** ©Matt Golowczynski

THE OFFICIAL KERRANG! ROCK CHART

CENTURIES
FALL OUT BOY
Centuries might be riding high at the top of the Rock Chart, but all we want for Christmas is the new Fall Out Boy album. Pete, get your elf outfit on and finish it for us NOW!

THE BLUE, THE GREEN
LONELY THE BRAVE
You know who're a really hard band to get when playing charades? This lot. We don't know how to illustrate being lonely *or* brave. Fingers crossed we get blink-182 instead…

MOVE, SHAKE, HIDE
MARMOZETS
Here's a song about pressies from Becca and co! You move the present from under the tree, shake to see what's inside, then hide so you don't have to buy anyone a present yourself.

I'M ALREADY GONE
A DAY TO REMEMBER
This track is about what'll happen to you if you turn up late for Christmas dinner with Jeremy McKinnon. He doesn't hang about, you see. And pulling crackers alone is *hard*.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST SONGS IN ROCK THIS WEEK? LET'S CONSULT THE OFFICIAL CHART…

No.	WEEKS ON CHART	HIGHEST POSITION	ARTIST	TITLE	LABEL
1	7	1	FOO FIGHTERS	Something From Nothing	ROSWELL/COLUMBIA
2	7	2	ROYAL BLOOD	Ten Tonne Skeleton	WARNER BROS.
3	12	1	FALL OUT BOY	Centuries	ISLAND
4	4	4	ENTER SHIKARI	The Last Garrison	ENTER SHIKARI
5	5	4	BRING ME THE HORIZON	Drown	SONY
6	3	6	AC/DC	Play Ball	LEIDSEPLEIN
7	8	4	TWIN ATLANTIC	Hold On	RED BULL
8	4	8	OF MICE & MEN	Would You Still Be There	RISE
9	7	4	LONELY THE BRAVE	The Blue, The Green	HASSLE
10	2	10	DON BROCO	Money Power Fame	SONY MUSIC
11	12	2	MALLORY KNOX	Shout At The Moon	SONY MUSIC
12	8	8	THE BLACKOUT	Wolves	THE BLACKOUT
13	1	13	MARMOZETS	Move, Shake, Hide	ALL BLACKS B.V
14	1	14	A DAY TO REMEMBER	I'm Already Gone	ADTR RECORDS
15	5	10	GERARD WAY	Millions	REPRISE
16	19	1	YOU ME AT SIX	Room To Breathe	BMG
17	12	2	ASKING ALEXANDRIA	Moving On	SUMERIAN
18	3	16	NEW FOUND GLORY	Ready And Willing	HOPELESS
19	2	16	DEVIL YOU KNOW	It's Over	NUCLEAR BLAST
20	2	19	RISE OF THE NORTHSTAR	Welcame	NUCLEAR BLAST

SEE/HEAR THE OFFICIAL KERRANG! ROCK CHART!

The Official Kerrang! Rock Chart is made up of airplay across Kerrang! Radio, Kerrang! TV and specialist rock stations. The show airs on K! Radio every Saturday at 12:30pm with Dan Hudson, and also on K! TV Thursdays at 5pm and Saturdays at 6pm. Tune in and listen up!

KERRANG! TV

KERRANG! RADIO

CHART ATTACK

IN 5… 4… 3… 2… 1…

READERS' CHART

BY DANIEL RICE, WOLVERHAMPTON

1 **FIREWORKS, THE BACK WINDOW'S DOWN**
"'*I bet you wish I was one of those clean-shaven men with perfect lives and perfect backs*'. Growing up is hard, and Fireworks know this all too well."

2 **BASEMENT, BREATHE**
"The best news of 2014 was these guys deciding it was time for another go around. Welcome back, boys!"

3 **MASTODON, OBLIVION**
"Every time Mastodon release something new, I invariably go back to this absolute gem."

4 **FINCH, ANYWHERE BUT HERE**
"Finch can still write one hell of a song – now if only they can keep their shit together…"

5 **BRING ME THE HORIZON, DROWN**
"Proof that BMTH still have so much more to offer, post-Sempiternal, and that Mr Sykes may not be the happiest of bears."

ROCKSTAR CHART

BY VIC FUENTES, PIERCE THE VEIL

1 **MARIAH CAREY, ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS YOU**
"We have this thing where you drive to houses that are done up with crazy lights, then tune in your radio station. This is always a good one to dance around to."

2 **BLINK-182, I WON'T BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS**
"I hate when bands do Christmas songs, but blink did it in a funny way, so it's cool."

3 **THE DRIFTERS, WHITE CHRISTMAS**
"It reminds me of Home Alone. We've never had a white Christmas in San Diego – it's more like a barbecue Christmas…"

4 **MAVIS STAPLES, CHRISTMAS VACATION**
"It's the main theme to National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation and that's definitely part of our tradition."

5 **DANNY ELFMAN AND THE CITIZENS OF HALLOWEEN TOWN, MAKING CHRISTMAS**
"I love the whole soundtrack; it's like Christmas but a *spooky* Christmas!"

WORDS: MARK SUTHERLAND

RANDOM CHART

THIS WEEK: SONGS ABOUT WINTER. BRRRRR!

1 **MEGADETH, BURNT ICE**
Dave Mustaine is such a terrible cook, he could burn ice. That's what this song is about.

2 **PARAMORE, HELLO COLD WORLD**
Paramore weren't wrong when they said it was a cold world. Our heating bill's extortionate.

3 **AC/DC, SNOWBALLED**
'The howl of the wolf, snow in his eyes' – no wonder he's howling if he's got something in his eyes. Ouch.

4 **SLAYER, MR. FREEZE**
Can't decide if this song is about the Batman character or the ice lollies. Let's go with both.

5 **METALLICA, TRAPPED UNDER ICE**
Quick! Somebody buy James Hetfield a hammer for Christmas!

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PREPARE FOR HELL TOUR

Slipknot

WITH OUR BROTHERS

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AND KING 810

JANUARY 2015

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SUN	18	GLASGOW THE SSE HYDRO
MON	19	NEWCASTLE METRO RADIO ARENA
TUE	20	MANCHESTER ARENA
THU	22	LIVERPOOL ECHO ARENA
~~FRI~~	~~23~~	~~LONDON WEMBLEY THE SSE ARENA~~ SOLD OUT
~~SAT~~	~~24~~	~~CARDIFF MOTORPOINT ARENA~~ SOLD OUT
MON	26	NOTTINGHAM CAPITAL FM ARENA
~~TUE~~	~~27~~	~~BIRMINGHAM BARCLAYCARD ARENA~~ SOLD OUT

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NEW ALBUM

OUT NOW

FEEDBACK

PUDDING YOU IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

I NOTICED THE K! STAFF WERE SNOWED UNDER PUTTIN' THIS BUMPER XMAS ISSUE TOGETHER, SO, YOURS TRULY STEPPED UP TO MANAGE YOUR YULETIDE MISSIVES.

'ERE WE GO!

AMERICA'S SWEETHOUSE

I WROTE FALL OUT BOY ON THE BACK OF MY GINGERBREAD HOUSE WITH THE EXTRA ICING I HAD.
HOLLY, VIA EMAIL

FALL OUT BOY

NICE, HOLLY! BUT WHERE ARE THE GINGERBREAD BAND MEMBERS?

LETTER OF THE WEEK
GET THE GANG TOGETHER!

THOUGHT I'D TELL YOU ABOUT A WEIRD DREAM I HAD. I SAW A CURIOUS FIGURE IN RED PUTTING SOMETHING UNDER MY XMAS TREE. HE TURNED, AND IT WAS GERARD WAY IN A RED VERSION OF HIS BLUE SUIT! HE THEN ASKED ME WHAT I WANTED FOR CHRISTMAS. I WAS ABOUT TO UTTER, 'FOR MCR TO REFORM,' WHEN I WOKE UP! SO, GERARD, IN CASE YOU DIDN'T CATCH IT – FOR MCR TO REFORM!!!
MIA, VIA EMAIL

OUCH! I THINK HE HEARD YA, MIA.

WIN!
A PAIR OF TICKETS TO SEE ALL TIME LOW AND YOU ME AT SIX ON THEIR CO-HEADLINE TOUR! PLUS – MEET THEM AT THE SHOW!!

WOW! I'M GONNA ENTER!

ME TOO, I WANNA MEET US!

ERM, DIFFERENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS MAY APPLY FOR YOU TWO. EVERYONE ELSE – HEAD TO WINIT.KERRANG.COM FOR DETAILS.

FANGS, MUM!

I GOT HOME FROM UNI THE OTHER DAY TO DISCOVER MY MUM HAD SENT ME AN ADVENT CALENDAR. YET, WHAT WAS EVEN MORE OF A SURPRISE WAS WHEN I OPENED THE FIRST DOOR TO SEE A PHOTO OF FEARLESS VAMPIRE KILLERS GLUED BEHIND IT. TURNS OUT SHE'D GLUED A FVK PIC BEHIND EVERY DOOR! CAN SAFELY SAY NO-ONE ELSE HAS A BETTER CALENDAR THAN THIS!
ROSE, DUNDEE

WOW! YOU CAN VAMP UP THE VOLUME ON A DAILY BASIS! YOUR MUM ROCKS!

MERRY XM-ASS!

HEY KERRANG! WE MADE THESE XMAS COOKIES AND ADDED SOME FESTIVE ALL TIME LOW LYRICS. HOPE YOU LIKE.
ABBIE AND KATIE, VIA EMAIL

MERRY CHRISTMAS KISS MY ASS

YUMMY! I COULD SCOFF ALL THAT, BUT... NOT THE 'ASS'. I'M A CARTOON CELEBRITY – GET ME OUTTA HERE!

TREE'S A CROWD

BECAUSE KERRANG! IS ALWAYS FULL OF AMAZING MUSICIANS, I DECIDED TO COVER MY XMAS TREE IN FACES OF SOME OF THE ARTISTS I LOVE!
LUCY DAVISON, VIA EMAIL

DECORATE AND DOMINATE! YOUR CRIMBO TREE RULES!

HEAVY METAL PET OF THE WEEK

HERE'S MY PET REINDEER READING KERRANG!. HE'S CALLED RUDOLPH THE RED BECAUSE OF A BIRTH-MARK OVER ONE EYE. RUDOLPH THE RED'S A BIT STUPID, THOUGH, AS HE KEEPS WANDERING OUT OF THE HOUSE IN WET WEATHER. I THINK HE'S CLIMATICALLY CHALLENGED.
KELLY, VIA EMAIL

EXCUUUSE ME...

... I THINK RUDOLPH THE RED KNOWS RAIN, DEAR.

HO! HO! HO!

RIOT GIRL

IT'S THE SMARTEST FILM OF 2014. WHERE THE POWER OF THE HUMAN MIND UNLOCKS – AND CONTROLS – THE SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE. AND NOW LUCY'S TAKING OVER YOUR ELECTRONIC DEVICES...

Lucy went to great lengths to make sure her wall didn't go anywhere

How much of your brain are you using right now? Scientists reckon it's a maximum of 10 per cent. But after she's accidentally given a huge dose of drugs by a smuggling gang, Lucy (Scarlett Johansson) goes way beyond that. And not even the world's brainiest brain expert Professor Samuel Norman (Morgan Freeman) knows what that could mean, although Lucy's now able to hear your thoughts, and move stuff with her mind. In this explosive sci-fi thriller, Lucy's grey matter also increases her power to rock by a factor of 10. Here's five reasons to throw your horns at her...

SHE'S GOT MEGABRAINS!

When the drugs she's smuggling leak into her body, Lucy's brain starts working harder than Swedish prog-metallers Opeth's the day before a guitar exam. Most people use 10 per cent of their brain, reckons Professor Samuel Norman. Lucy's is way beyond, and she gets the sort of special powers that make doing your brain-training look very appealing indeed.

SHE GETS SHOT. DOESN'T CRY!

Spoiler alert! Lucy takes a bullet to the shoulder off a Yakuza-type bloke early on. Does she go down? Does she 'eck. Her brain translates the pain, but she can now ignore it, and PULLS OUT THE BULLET HERSELF. Which is really metal.

SHE HAS ULTRA HEARING!

As Lucy's brain power increases, her senses become heightened to almost supernatural levels. She can pretty much hear Wi-Fi. Which would be awesome, as you wouldn't need a computer to stream the new AC/DC album, you could just beam it straight to your brain.

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Be honest, we all want it – and Lucy's got it. "I'm gonna drive," she announces to a dude in a car, before shunting him onto the passenger seat via her mind. A handy one for the toilet queue at Download...

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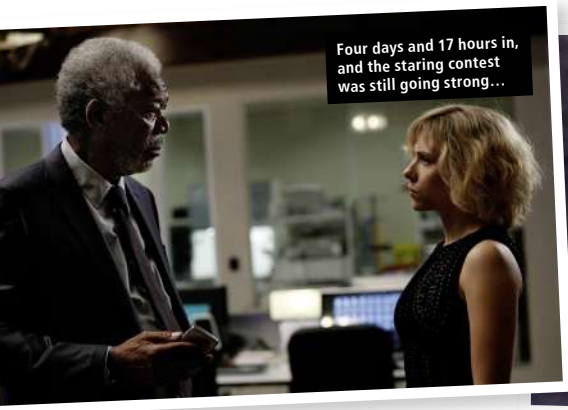

Four days and 17 hours in, and the staring contest was still going strong...

All that brain power, and Lucy still can't hold a gun properly

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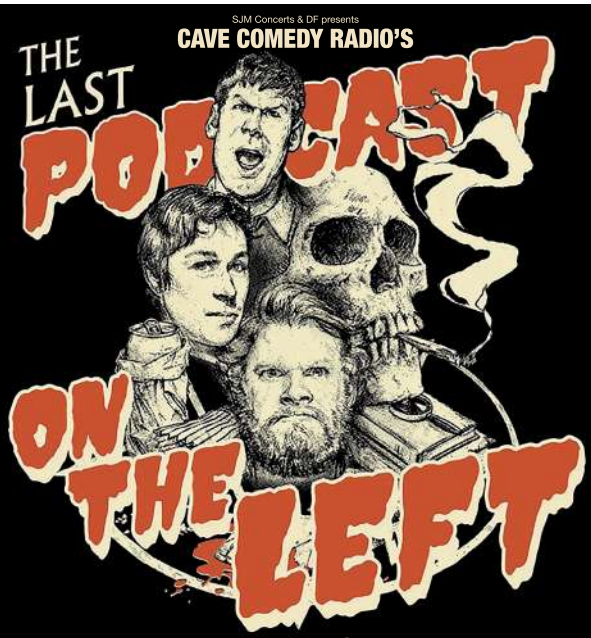

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IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE...

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WELCOME ONCE MORE, DEAR READER, TO THE KERRANG! KERRISTMAS SPECIAL! WE'VE BEEN GIFTWRAPPING AND SLAPPING A BOW ON OUR SEASONAL BONANZA FOR SOME 30 YEARS NOW, AND THIS YEAR'S STAR-STUDDED CAST IS POSSIBLY THE GREATEST WE'VE EVER ASSEMBLED. SO, THROW YOUR DEVIL HO-HO-HORNS TO THE SKY – AND WATCH OUT FOR LOW-FLYING SLEIGHS!

STARRING!

P18 BLACK VEIL BRIDES
P22 GERARD WAY
P23 TAY JARDINE
P23 DAVE GROHL
P24 BEN BRUCE
P24 RONNIE RADKE
P25 PETE WENTZ
P26 ALL TIME LOW
P28 OZZY OSBOURNE
P28 LAURA JANE GRACE
P29 COREY TAYLOR
P30 TAYLOR MOMSEN
P30 AUSTIN CARLILE
P31 OLI SYKES
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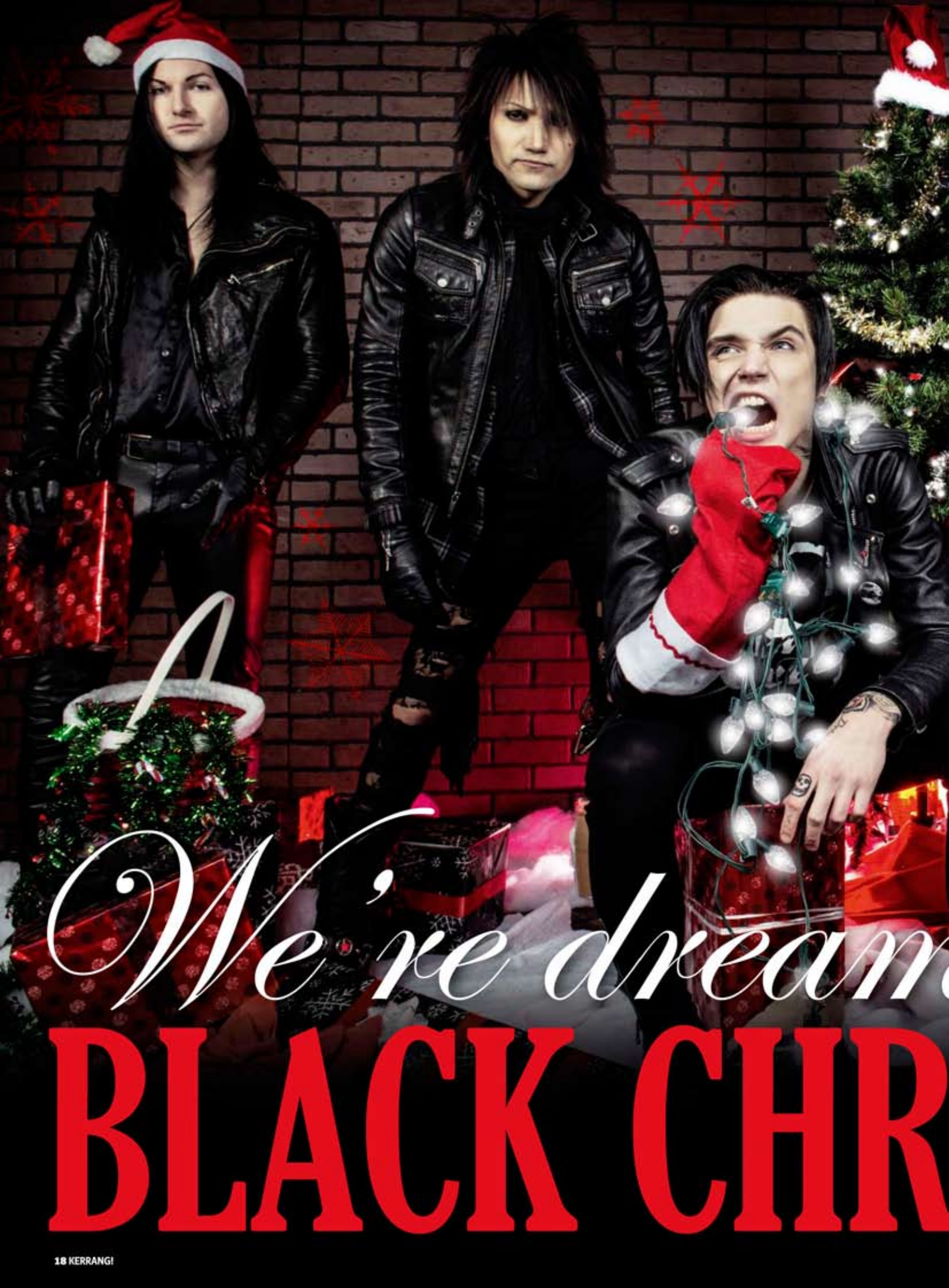
PLUS!

P48 ALL-STAR KERRISTMAS DINNER!
P54 ROCKSTAR LETTERS TO SANTA!
P56 CELEBS REVIEW THE SONGS OF 2014!
P58 A DAY TO REMEMBER'S KERRISTMAS QUIZ!

PHOTO: NADINE BALLANTYNE



We're dream

BLACK CHR

BLACK VEIL BRIDES

Santa never comes when you're waiting for him, lads… (*From left*) Jinxx, Ashley Purdy, Andy Biersack, Jake Pitts and Christian 'CC' Coma

WHO BETTER TO OPEN OUR KERRISTMAS BONANZA THAN A BAND THAT TOURED THE WORLD, RELEASED A KILLER NEW RECORD, AND EVEN EDITED AN ENTIRE ISSUE OF KERRANG! IN 2014? NO WONDER **BLACK VEIL BRIDES** ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A BIT OF A SEASONAL REST…

Every year, the young Andy Biersack would dream of a bright Christmas.

The Black Veil Brides frontman grew up in Ohio: the sort of American heartland state where, come December, everyone decks out their houses in full-on Home Alone-esque festive lights and animatronic Santas.

"I always wanted lights outside my house," he says wistfully, for a moment that cute Midwestern kid again. "But my parents never did it, 'cause my dad didn't want to get up and put them on the house. We lived in a really old house that didn't have electricity outside, so you'd have to plug them in inside. And that's 'dangerous' and 'there's no earth to it'… so I never got the house full of lights."

Instead, young Andy would concentrate on the indoor decorations. For all of the years that he lived with his parents, he'd cajole his mother into putting up the Christmas tree as early as possible, festoon it with baubles and tinsel, and insist on leaving it up until well after New Year.

So what, then, will Andy make of Kerrang!'s Christmas decorations? In honour of BVB, there will be no white Christmas this year: instead, everything – the tree, the presents, even the tinsel – has gone black. *None more* black. Will Andy embrace it in the spirit of BVB's Black Mass tour, or will this Christmas traditionalist insist that we let in light and banish shade?

Andy takes a look at the anti-festive scene and cracks a wolfish grin.

"Now this," he says, very much the LA rockstar once again, "looks like a lot of fun…"

After all, 2014 was the year the Brides turned the whole world Black. Why should Christmas be any different?

If Christmas is a time to take stock of your achievements, then Andy and the rest of Black Veil Brides – Ashley Purdy (bass), Jinxx (guitar), Jake Pitts (guitar) and Christian 'CC' Coma (drums) – have a lot to think about this year.

All told, 2014 has arguably been the band's most successful year yet. In October, they released their fourth album, the succinctly titled Black Veil Brides, commonly referred to as IV – an unstoppable back-to-basics hard rock record that rapidly became their highest-charting UK album ever, also cracking the U.S. Top 10. The Black Mass shows in the UK and the U.S. (with Falling In Reverse also on board for the latter) were the biggest and most spectacular gigs of their career so far. They got to edit an entire edition of Kerrang!, while Andy was infused with such positivity and productivity that he even found time to release a solo single, under the name Andy Black.

All of this should be more than enough to put the Brides on Santa's nice list. But, in fact, Andy has already had his reward: his happiest moment this year arrived on the day his band's album

WORDS: MARK SUTHERLAND **PHOTOS:** ANDREW LIPOVSKY RETOUCHING: JOSIAH MOORE

And after all that, we *still* couldn't please Jake…

launched, as he sat in the tour bus and watched social media and the iTunes chart light up with enthusiasm. "I wasn't sat there refreshing the page over and over," he grins, "but it was still very exciting."

Andy adds that the moments he feels most grateful for came on the UK leg of the tour, where at every date he found himself greeted by BVB's largest, most hysterical audiences to date.

"I just feel so fortunate to establish a relationship with a country where the audience has favoured us for so many years and is still growing," he smiles. "You never know the shelf life of what you do, so it's nice to know people have stuck by us."

But despite all his unparalleled achievements, Andy was hit hardest by the bits of life that happened while he was busy making other plans.

As BVB were recording IV, Andy's 88-year-old grandmother was taken ill. So, in the midst of crafting their most important album to date, he took a few weeks out to head back to Ohio. He spent time with his grandmother as she underwent treatment, and hung out with his family for the first time in, well, too long.

"That was something very dark and sad to deal with," he says, soberly. "But it was an opportunity for me to reconnect… so there's a positive and negative to everything."

Did he find himself reassessing his own life?

"Absolutely," he says. "I didn't necessarily find I was focusing my attention in the wrong places, but certainly I wanted to offer [more] focus on my family and those that need it the most."

With his gran recovering, and the Black Mass Tour grinding to a temporary halt in Arizona, Andy will head back to Ohio to recreate the "Coke bottle Santa Claus Christmas" of his youth.

"JINXX HOSTS UGLY SWEATER PARTIES!"

Andy Biersack

There probably still won't be lights on the outside of the house, but the tree will be up and he'll still enjoy dinner with the rest of the extended Biersack clan. Despite his status as an only child and an all-conquering rockstar, he won't expect any special treatment.

"That's not really how my family works," he chuckles. "My mom likes to take care of me, but I've never been one to lay down and say, 'Bring me things!'. I like to be active."

As a child, Andy was always considered an equal by his parents ("I was never treated like I was a dumb kid – we always had intellectual conversations"). Unlike almost every other family on Earth, there are never any rows around the Biersack Christmas dinner table.

"Everyone gets along, there's no craziness," he insists. "Maybe one of my uncles will get a little too drunk and start singing a song, but there's no fighting. I'm very fortunate. But that's why I love Christmas. I love the feeling of camaraderie and joy and the idea that it's the happiest time of the year. I don't follow the religious end of it, I love it for the same reason I love Hallowe'en – I love holidays that are community-based, [where] there's a feeling that everybody's celebrating this thing."

His Christmases haven't always been quite so harmonious. He recalls visiting various ex-girlfriends' families during the festive season and observing "the world's largest fight of all time".

Nor has he always been quite so traditional. Nowadays, the band scatter in five different directions for their Yuletide celebrations, but in BVB's early days, things were very different.

"Jinxx has thrown ugly Christmas sweater parties in the past," he laughs. "The objective was to get really nasty-looking Christmas sweaters and then make them worse by adding

cotton balls and trash and whatever kind of crap you could put on them."

Now *there's* a Christmas party we'd have liked to attend. Even Christmas 2013 was very different to the customs of Andy's youth. He spent it with his girlfriend in Los Angeles, where they're too cool for Christmas house lights and the sunshine is a big departure from the festive snow of the Midwest.

BVB's tour didn't wrap until December 20 in Nottingham, so by the time Andy got back to LA, there wasn't much time for pre-Christmas contemplation. Instead, he got home, ordered two enormous pizzas, and "just sat there, happy to eat and then fall asleep on my couch, having a very content moment".

On the big day itself, the couple watched festive films, ordered a Chinese takeaway and "hung out with our cats by the Christmas tree we bought hastily a day beforehand". One childhood tradition did survive: Andy left the tree up until *April*, laughing in the face of the idea that such behaviour brings bad luck.

"It can't be *that* bad luck," he chortles, considering his 2014 success. "I only took it down in April to keep it special, like, 'Soon it will be Christmas again and I'll have ruined this.'"

And if there's one thing Andy has learned over the years, it's that being in a band messes with the natural cycle of things. You might be thinking in terms of "sleeps" 'til Christmas, but Andy now plans his life around how many gigs he has until his tours end – and, with Black Mass dates stretching out well into 2015, there's no rest in sight just yet.

Even so, if last year's Christmas was the calm before 2014's storm, full of uncertainty and anticipation about what the year ahead might hold, this year's gathering at the Ohio homestead will offer Andy a chance to look back and reflect upon what the year has taught him.

"The biggest lesson I learned was to always deal with my gut instincts," he explains. "Generally speaking, [if I] go with my first level of emotion rather than second-guessing myself, things will work out best for me, both in my personal life and my career."

A prime example came in May, when he launched his solo career under the name Andy Black, with the Gothic torch song They Don't Need To Understand.

"I had no basis to believe it would work out or people would like it or even understand what I was trying to do," he shrugs. "I just felt it was good enough. I wanted to put it out in the world and take the gamble. I felt it would succeed – and it did."

Indeed, it did so well that Andy is now signing a solo deal with Universal and will make a full album next year. But if there's a secret to his success, he's not about to reveal it.

"Bands make a mistake in trying to tell people how they got successful," he insists. "If someone wins the lottery, you don't ask them how they did it. You just go, 'Wow, he's fucking lucky.'"

But then, the harder Andy Biersack works, the luckier he gets. His reliance on gut instinct means he never sets himself short-term targets for the year ahead, neither professional nor personal. "The success is so fleeting," he says, "like, 'I lost that weight, now what do I do? I guess I should eat a hamburger…'"

Instead, he prefers to think long-term.

"I'm always ambitious," he says. "But it's always been about the ultimate idea of what I want to do with my life. That way, you can enjoy things that happen to you much more, because you aren't fighting for specifics, just the life you want to live."

Next year, Black Veil Brides will continue to spread the Black Mass gospel far and wide, as part of Andy's mission to "play every possible place we can". The shows will range from intimate March gigs at London venues The Garage and the Electric Ballroom to April's first tour of Russia, where the Spetsnaz wing of the BVB Army have long been clamouring for gigs.

Now, though, it's time for Andy and the rest of the Brides to throw themselves into the commercialised side of the festive season, and to tear open Kerrang!'s dark-wrapped presents. But while everything here is black on the outside, an increasingly upbeat Andy no longer feels that way on the inside.

"My personal goal for 2015 is just continued happiness," he concludes. "I did a really good job this year of curtailing my tendency to become dark on tour and feel sad about things. I have been enjoying my life quite a bit. If I can continue that, that would be the best thing."

With his name now up in lights, even if the outside of his childhood home still won't be, Andy's days look increasingly bright. So, from now on, may all your Christmases be Black.

BLACK VEIL BRIDES RETURN TO THE UK IN MARCH. SEE THE GIG GUIDE FOR DETAILS

GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND… A TINY PIG?

WHAT WILL ANDY BE LEAVING THE REST OF BVB UNDER THE CHRISTMAS TREE?

Ashley Purdy (*Bass*)

ANDY: "Books. In the past, we've got for each other, like, a biographical history of Guns N' Roses in photos. He likes things [about] the aesthetic of something that captures a time period, so something along those lines."

Jinxx (*Guitar*)

ANDY: "Probably something American Civil War-related. He's a big history buff in general, but he particularly likes the Civil War and that whole time period [the 1860s]. He loves collecting memorabilia from that time – he loves the outfits and the guns."

Christian 'CC' Coma (*Drums*)

ANDY: "He really wants a teacup pig. He keeps saying, 'Please someone get me one for Christmas; I really want a tiny pig.' He wants it as a pet, instead of a dog. Would he bring it on the road? That's a question you've got to ask him!"

Jake Pitts (*Guitar*)

ANDY: "Jake's very into health and fitness now, so maybe something like a workout-based electrical machine. That's a big present, but it's hypothetical. I can say anything. I can say I'd buy somebody a basketball team!"

"Shhh, don't tell CC this had his name on it…"

MY 2014

LIFE ON ROCK'S FRONT LINE IS NEVER DULL. AND IT'S NEVER EASY EITHER. SO, HOW HAVE THESE SUPERSTARS FARED?

GERARD WAY

FROM THE ASHES OF MCR EMERGED A MAN DESPERATE TO DO THINGS HIS OWN, ER, WAY

WHAT DID 2014 TEACH YOU, GERARD?

"The biggest thing that I've learned about myself this year is that I'm an extremely simple human being, and it's a nice thing to learn. I used to think that I was fractured and complex; complicated and overly faceted. I don't even know if that's a phrase, but I used to think that I was this ball of complexity. I've really realised that I'm so simple. All I need is my family and to make art and express myself. Literally, the only basic things that I need are food and water, and that's it. Learning that you're simple is quite a relief. It gives your brain a rest from all the running around it's used to doing."

WHAT WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR PAST 12 MONTHS?

"Walking out at Reading Festival this year. That made me realise everything was going to be fine… People were just happy that I was there; they were excited about that. It didn't matter that they didn't know what the songs were, or that they hadn't heard them, or that they didn't know what I was going to look like. None of that mattered. That was such a nice feeling."

ARE YOU HAPPY NOW?

"My wife, Lyn-Z, and I are constantly looking at each other and saying, 'We literally have the best life.' We have this amazing daughter and we get to make art all day – that's our life, it's not even our job. We can support ourselves by making art and living with this awesome kid, and that's what we do. I sound like a hippy nowadays…"

ANY REGRETS THIS YEAR?

"I used to be the type of person that used to say, 'I have no regrets,' and, 'You shouldn't regret anything.' But everybody has *something* they regret. This year I'm hard-pressed to find something, though. I really did give myself over to the universe; I just go with it now. I'm plugged right into

> "I STUCK TO MY GUNS"

the source and I share everything. I share my art, though I guess I regret not writing more comics. I think that's the only thing. But the only reason that didn't happen was because I was so focused on music, and that makes me happy."

WHAT WAS YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE?

"I stuck to my guns. That was the biggest challenge: really sticking to my beliefs and putting out the album [Hesitant Alien] in the way that I intended. Not enough gets said about Doug McKean, who produced the record – just how much he believed in my vision, and how hard we had to hold that line together. There were definitely forces at work, trying to get us to not complete this album. Or not to make it what it was. But if somebody said, 'This record sounds too lo-fi,' or, 'Too nuts,' our response was to make it more, so we could say to ourselves, 'Yes, this is finished and nobody can fuck with us.' So, I think the biggest challenge was holding firm and not listening to anyone else."

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF IN 2014?

"Of everything coming full circle and working. It was a hard road to get there. But stuff like the album coming out and doing well, and doing above what was expected of it: that stuff feels like a bonus. Everything else has been such a gift that the record even making a dent is a bonus."

TAY JARDINE

WATIC'S LEADING LADY FOUND HER TRUE SELF IN 2014...

HI, TAY! TALK US THROUGH YOUR YEAR – WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT YOURSELF AS A PERSON IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS?
"It's funny, almost exactly a year ago I was over in the UK, and I remember someone asking me, 'Do you have any New Year's resolutions?' And I was like, 'Yeah, to be more confident,' which seemed to surprise them a lot. At the start of this year, I was not the extrovert that people might expect because of my job. A lot of times I would find myself feeling a bit trapped either onstage or when I was just talking to fans: I didn't know how to properly open up because I was really scared. So, it's been a conscious thing for me this whole year to try and build up some of that self-confidence."

HAVE THE REST OF YOUR BAND HELPED YOU OUT ALONG THE WAY?
"I definitely made it known to the boys that I felt like I needed to step out of my shell and be the frontperson of the band. I knew that I had a lot to offer and I needed to get that out. I explained to them that if we could really encourage each other, I'd be so much better. Just little things like, 'You had a great show tonight,' and stuff like that makes all the difference. They've helped me loads."

WHICH PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS HAVE MEANT THE MOST TO YOU THIS YEAR?
"I've not had a boyfriend – and I think that's a good thing, because it gave me some time to focus on myself! Internally, though, WATIC are so, so strong as a unit right now, and that is something that has really developed this year. On our most recent run of shows in the U.S., for example, I think we only got in one argument, and even then we were able to sit down and talk it out. That never used to happen – it used to be a screaming match! I feel like we're all on the same page these days and, if I'm honest, it's been a while since it's been that way."

ANY REGRETS FROM 2014, THEN, TAY?
"You know what? None that I can think of! Which is kind of ridiculous, because no-one has a perfect year, but I feel like I don't regret the mistakes I've made because they have made me a better, stronger person in the end."

DAVE GROHL

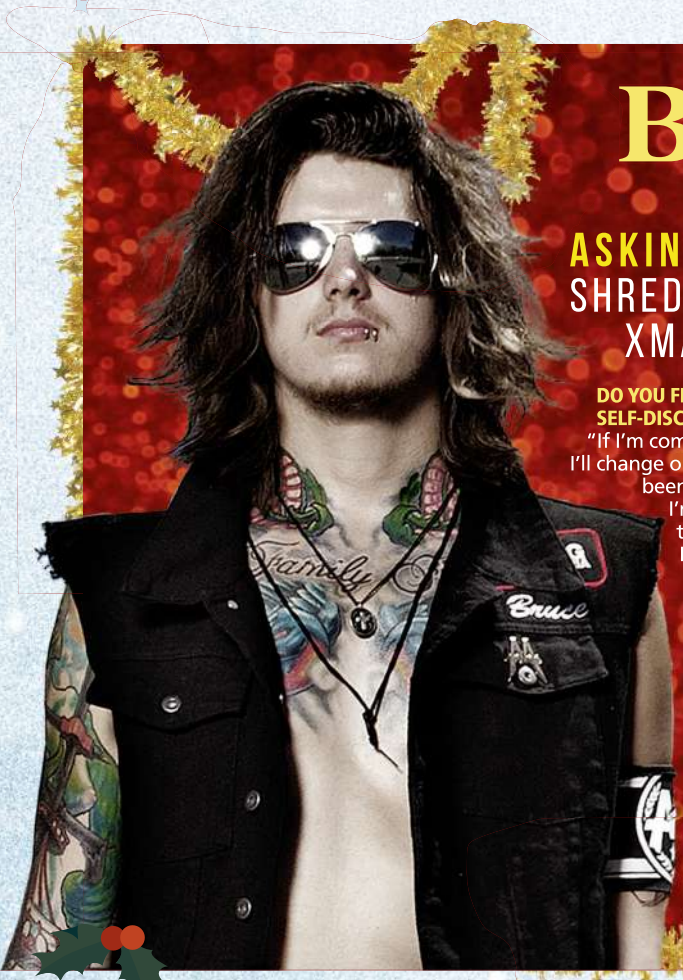
EIGHT CITIES, EIGHT STUDIOS, ONE HECTIC YEAR FOR THE FOOS...

DAVE, THIS YEAR HAS BEEN ALL ABOUT SONIC HIGHWAYS, AS FAR AS THE FOOS ARE CONCERNED. HOW DID IT ALL COME ABOUT?
"Well, after the last Foo Fighters record [2011's Wasting Light], my next project was the Sound City movie, which originally was just going to be this short film about the history of the board [a Neve 8028 recording console from late LA recording studio Sound City, which was used to record the likes of Fleetwood Mac, Nirvana, Metallica, et al]. But the more I learned about the history of the studio *and* the board, I realised it's not a short story, it's a big story. And so I reached out to all these different people to interview them, and they all agreed to sit down and talk with me; Neil Young and Stevie Nicks and Tom Petty… That's when I realised that, 'Okay, this is a film, and I'm gonna direct it.'"

AND THAT EXPERIENCE INSPIRED YOU TO MAKE SONIC HIGHWAYS?
"Well, then after I was finished with that, I thought, 'Okay, the Foo Fighters can't just make another album like everybody else does. Now I have the opportunity and the resources to do something special, something much bigger than just making an album,' and so I put the concept of the last record, which we did in my garage, together with Sound City – the concept of making a documentary – and just expanded the whole thing into a TV series in eight different studios all over the country. But at this point in our career, it's [almost] 20 years for the Foos, [and] you have to kind of keep reinventing the process, just to make you excited to do another 20 years!"

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO CELEBRATE THAT MILESTONE NEXT YEAR?
"We're actually kind of doing our own thing. Years ago, I thought, 'You know what I wanna do? I wanna play the stadium in the town where I grew up – RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C.. That's where we have to celebrate our 20th anniversary, on the Fourth of July, because that was the day the first record came out.' So we fucking put together this insane bill that's, like, Buddy Guy, LL Cool J, and Joan Jett, and Trombone Shorty, there's fucking fireworks and I'm leading a fucking motorcycle rally into the stadium – the whole deal! It's completely insane, and so we put the whole thing together and it sold 40,000 tickets in a day or whatever, and I thought, 'Well fuck, I should have my own festival!' We could just do it every year, you know? Sounds fun!"

WORDS: MATT ALLEN, TOMAS DOYLE, JAMES MCMAHON PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES



BEN BRUCE

ASKING ALEXANDRIA'S SHREDDER IS EYEING AN XMAS HANGOVER...

DO YOU FEEL YOU'VE BEEN ON A JOURNEY OF SELF-DISCOVERY THIS YEAR, BEN?
"If I'm completely honest, every time I think I'll change or develop as a person this year, it's been because I'm hungover! I mean, I'm 26 now and I don't want to join the 27 Club of dead rockstars like Kurt Cobain and Jimi Hendrix, but as hard as I might try, once the hangover's gone I'm straight back to being a dickhead with a bottle in my hand!"

SO THIS YEAR HASN'T MADE YOU WANT TO QUIT PARTYING, THEN?
"I'd love to say that I see an end to all the craziness, but I really don't! I think for the most part that's 'cause I really, genuinely, just don't give a shit. Shit's gonna happen either way, whatever you do, so you might as well enjoy life as much as you can while you still have it. I could be walking to get a Greggs, fall off a curb and get killed by a car tomorrow, for all I know. At least if I was drunk it would probably hurt less."

IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN SUPER BUSY THIS YEAR, AND NOW YOU HAVE A SOLO RECORD ON THE WAY, TOO. HOW HAVE YOU COPED?
"I just can't seem to switch off! I went on holiday with my wife earlier this year to celebrate our one-year wedding anniversary, but after about five days I was like, 'Darling, can we go home? I'm fucking bored and I need to do some work!' She keeps telling me I need to chill out, but my brain won't let me. Maybe I'll be able to slow that side of myself down too as I get older, but I can't really foresee a time when I won't want to always be busy."

YOUR WIFE MUST BE VERY UNDERSTANDING...
"I've been with Sam for coming on eight years now, and she's absolutely amazing. Because we've been together for so long, things haven't really changed now that we have gotten married. I mean, I literally got dropped off from our tour bus the day before we got married and then picked up the very next day! Being away so much in the year can be pretty difficult sometimes, but it means we don't get sick of each other!"

RONNIE RADKE

HAS MR FALLING IN REVERSE *FINALLY* SHAKEN THE HATERS?

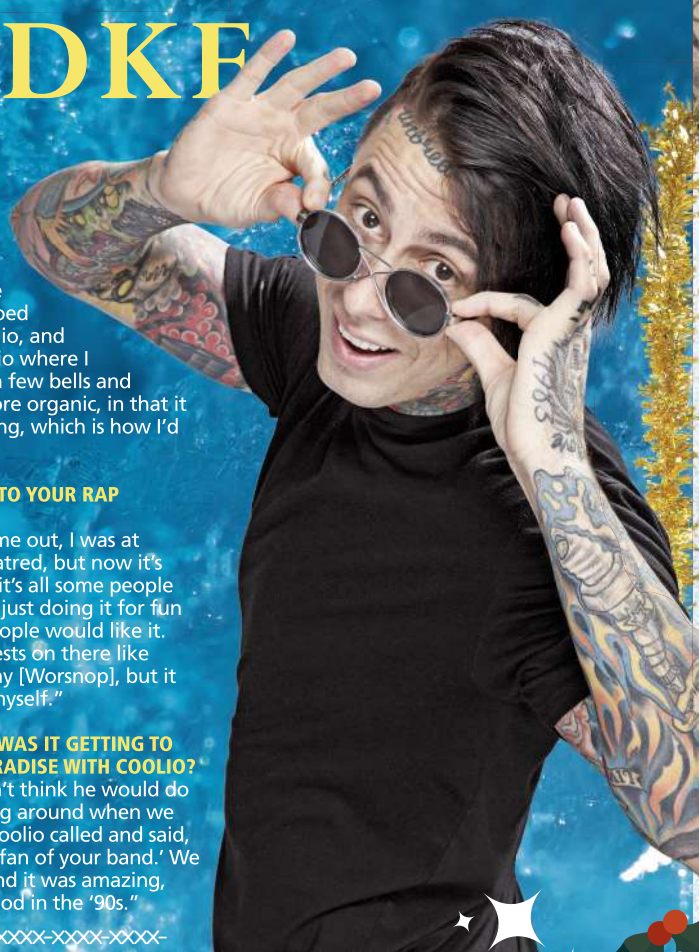
HOW BIG A MOMENT WAS IT STARTING THE YEAR WITH THE BURY THE HATCHET TOUR ALONGSIDE ESCAPE THE FATE?
"It was very important and it was a bittersweet kind of thing, because I forgave all of them. A lot of things had happened between us, and it was great to share a stage with them, and for them to see me in person and see where I was mentally. Living well's the best revenge, I guess, but I have no bad blood at all towards them after everything that's happened."

WAS THAT TOUR YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT 2014?
"My favourite thing about 2014 is the hate that has dissipated. It's not even close to what it was before – I have to look for all the hatred now. 2013 was a bad year for that. It seemed I was getting hate directed towards me from all quarters, but it seems to have died away."

HOW EXCITED WERE YOU TO START WORK ON A NEW FALLING IN REVERSE ALBUM?
"We were all incredibly excited about that. It's literally the best record that I've ever been involved with, and it's certainly the best my current band has ever done. This time out it was done very organically. On the second record [2013's Fashionably Late], I wrote every song first and demoed everything in a small studio, and then took it to a big studio where I duplicated it and added a few bells and whistles. This one was more organic, in that it came out as we went along, which is how I'd always worked before."

HOW WAS THE REACTION TO YOUR RAP MIXTAPE, WATCH ME?
"When the first songs came out, I was at the forefront of all the hatred, but now it's completely changed and it's all some people want to talk about. I was just doing it for fun and hoping that some people would like it. There are some great guests on there like Andy [Biersack] and Danny [Worsnop], but it was something I did for myself."

AND AS A RAP FAN, HOW WAS IT GETTING TO PERFORM GANGSTA'S PARADISE WITH COOLIO?
"It was a lot of fun! I didn't think he would do that. We were just messing around when we did that cover, but then Coolio called and said, 'I love it, my daughter's a fan of your band.' We did it onstage together and it was amazing, because the dude was a god in the '90s."



WORDS: TOMAS DOYLE, PAUL TRAVERS, JENNYFER J WALKER PHOTOS: PAUL HARRIES

PETE WENTZ

FALL OUT BOY 2014: NO LONGER SMELLING LIKE A NEW CAR...

HOW WAS 2014 FOR FALL OUT BOY, PETE?

"I think it was a good year. It was interesting because… when did we put out Save Rock And Roll? 2013? That year was so insane. We had the 'new car' smell, kind of. This year's been a little bit more of an adjustment. [2013] was like Fall Out Boy on steroids, or whatever, like the first time you realise you can dunk [on a basketball court]. This year I feel like we've had to figure out where Fall Out Boy sits in the world. I feel like we had this new puppy when we first came back, and now we have to figure out how to train the dog and not let it go to the bathroom in the house."

WHAT WERE YOUR HIGHLIGHTS?

"My personal highlight would be my kid being born, definitely. I got to hold baby lions when we went to South Africa, too. But for the band I would say that a big highlight for us was, having been told that rock or the music that we played would not be played on the radio, and we would not be playing in arenas, we found a way to do both of those things without regurgitating something. That was a special thing. And I guess there wasn't a specific moment for that – it was just a really cool thing to do in general. I think that getting Monumentour to actually work was really cool. It was just a hard task in the way of everyone's schedules, so getting that to actually happen was really cool."

WHAT WAS IT LIKE WHEN NEW SINGLE CENTURIES WENT PLATINUM?

"That was pretty crazy. I didn't expect that to happen the way it did or at the speed it did. It was a little bit of a 'pinch me' moment when I saw it. We've had other records and other songs go platinum before and stuff like that, but we never made a real big deal about it or anything. But the only reason I was like, 'I wanna say something [about it this time]', is because it took a lot of work for a band like us to get a song to go platinum. And I didn't wanna be forgetful or not humbled by that moment. How did I celebrate? (*Laughs*) I think my family took me out for sushi. Here's the deal: we'd rather spend the money our band gets on videos and making music, not really lavish parties. We just shot two videos, and that's what I wanna put our financial efforts into, so we can still make cool stuff that's a little bit outside the box."

"I'M FINALLY AT PEACE WITH MY PAST"

DID YOU ACHIEVE ANY PERSONAL GOALS THIS YEAR?

"I feel like I was finally able to look back on my past life, maybe five years ago, and be at peace with it. I think that some of that perspective comes with time, and some of it comes with having a good support group around you. It's funny – I was just putting together a photo book for Christmas, looking back at pictures, and I was like, 'Wow! I weighed, like, 95lbs, and it was *not* a good thing.' I can look back on it now and I don't feel like that's an alien person. I feel like I've eclipsed who that person was, emotionally. It was important to be sad at some point – and also on this last record I wrote about it a little bit more, because I felt comfort from the distance. My other goal was staying interested in the World Cup beyond when America went out (*laughs*) – and I actually did!"

AND HOW ARE YOU GOING TO BE SEEING OUT THE YEAR?

"I'm just gonna unplug. December is a really hectic month for the band, so it's just stress, stress, stress, stress, stress! And then I'm just gonna get off the grid. I'm gonna go to Chicago for Christmas, and then I'm gonna go with my entire family to Jamaica."

SOMEWHERE IN LAPLAND

WE ALL KNOW THAT CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR GIVING, BUT FOR ALL TIME LOW, THE REAL PRESENTS WILL COME IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS, WHEN THEY *FINALLY* GET TO GIFTWRAP A NEW ALBUM AND UK TOUR…

Help – Jack Barakat keeps trying to dress me up as an elf

"I'm getting Zack [Merrick, bass] a load of whey protein powder for Christmas," laughs Alex Gaskarth with the cheekiest of grins. "He's into all these crazy fitness routines now. He doesn't even do weights – it's just this mad gymnastic stuff where he does one-handed handstands! For Jack [Barakat, guitar], though, I'd get a load of penicillin and condoms so he can try to stay healthy. He's the weakling of the group…"

As Mr Gaskarth excitedly regales us with his festive shopping requirements, he and the rest of All Time Low are being coated in tinsel and drowning in presents at Kerrang!'s Noël HQ.

It's the sort of spectacle that would warm even Ebenezer Scrooge's cold heart; especially because, as the Santa hats get broken out, it becomes apparent that these four wise men of pop-punk *love* Christmas.

"Everything about this time of year is brilliant, but one thing I always look forward to about Christmas is that Rian's [Dawson, drums] family throw a massive party, so we all head round there and hang out," continues Alex. "It's an open invitation to the whole neighbourhood to enjoy some festive cheer and take some time out from the hecticness of life.

"Oh," he adds. "And it usually involves some Ping-Pong."

Sorry, Alex?

"Rian has got this Ping-Pong table round at his, so we'll tend to have a tournament in the afternoon. It normally gets pretty competitive and descends into drinking games! I used to be terrible at Ping-Pong, but I've got pretty good lately. There's a table in the studio we've been using, so I reckon this time out I could be in with a good chance – finally!"

But away from the table tennis, there's something else great about the holiday season that Alex and the boys have come to appreciate, particularly this year.

"It's great to enjoy the downtime," offers Alex. "Especially as we've gotten so busy recently. It's good to take a step back and reflect…"

The past 12 months have certainly been busy for All Time Low. Holing up in the studio to write the follow-up to 2012's Don't Panic, 2014 has seen the quartet flexing their creative muscles like never before.

"The process of this year has been a whirlwind," says Alex, as the rest of his band snaffle K!'s candy canes. "We took a lot of time off from touring, which is unusual for us, because normally we're such workhorses when it comes to being on the road, but it has been good to pace ourselves and spend time figuring out the new album and what our next step is going to be. We've had the chance to write so much music and, from an artistic standpoint, we've really gotten to explore our limits and grow together as a band."

"IT'S GOOD TO STEP BACK AND REFLECT"
ALEX GASKARTH

But while the year is now coming to a close and the turkey is roasting in the oven, Alex admits there have been some stressful moments in among 2014's good times.

"There are definitely occasions when the pressure in the studio can get to boiling point and it's like, 'Holy shit, are we doing this right?!'

WORDS: TOMAS DOYLE PHOTO: LISA JOHNSON

Just what we've always wanted – a hover box! (*From left*) Rian Dawson, Alex Gaskarth, Jack Barakat and Zack Merrick

It's a different kind of stress from that of being out touring, but it's definitely there sometimes. Fortunately, those instances have been fewer and further between this year than ever before, as far as I can remember. And now the record is taking shape, we're all champing at the bit to start playing shows properly again."

All being well, then, it's a rejuvenated and re-exhilarated All Time Low that will emerge in 2015. "We're stoked to get started early on our co-headline tour with the boys in You Me At Six," enthuses Alex of their February trek. "It's great that the UK is the first place we get to come to. Joining You Me At Six onstage at Reading [Festival] was one of those awesome spontaneous things. I happened to be in town working on some music, and Josh [Franceschi, YMAS vocals] text me going, 'Dude, you have to come up and sing something!' We were always going to be announcing our joint tour that day, so it just seemed like a really cool thing to do!"

Before the New Year rockings can begin, though, there's the little matter of Christmas stockings to be dealt with. And Alex is hopeful he might be getting something to keep him occupied on the tour bus…

"Dude, you know what the best gift I ever got was?" begins the frontman, swinging another string of tree decorations round his neck, unable to contain his glee. "A Sega Genesis when I was about seven or eight. It was literally the greatest thing ever. I would *love* to get one of those now!"

As the laughter dies down, though, it turns out it's not really the material side of things that floats Alex's boat the most.

"The most important thing – like the *actual* most important thing – to me at Christmas is getting the chance to spend some quality time with those closest to me, and I know everyone in the band feels the same. That's why the party at Rian's is so awesome, because I get to see people I might not have seen for virtually the entire year. You remind yourself about where the good stuff in your life comes from. It's good to take that time to consider where you are and where you want to go – it's something everybody ought to do. It's a shame it takes a holiday to make that happen, but it's still nice to enjoy."

And hey, once you've done all that contemplating and hanging out, there's still hopefully time to get to the shops to make sure the *whole* of your band gets to open the gift of their dreams, right, Alex?

"Rian is the only one left, and he's tough to buy for! If I could afford it I'd get him a Tesla electric car – he's obsessed with them. I don't know how I'd wrap it, though. That would be the hardest bit about that present…"

We're sure you'll figure it out, Alex – just make sure you pick up *plenty* of wrapping paper and ribbons. Now, anyone for Ping-Pong?

ALL TIME LOW TOUR THE UK WITH YOU ME AT SIX IN FEBRUARY, AND PLAY LONDON'S SSE WEMBLEY ARENA ON MARCH 20. SEE THE GIG GUIDE

LOST IN VIDEO!

CHRISTMAS ISN'T JUST A TIME FOR PRESENTS AND EATING – IT'S ALSO FOR SLOBBING DOWN IN FRONT OF SOME MOVIES, TOO. BUT WHAT WILL ALEX BE WATCHING?

Alex says… "I love **ELF** – it's one of the best things about Christmas. I'll watch it most years, normally after we've all had loads of awesome food. It's just an *incredible* film. Then there are classics like **HOME ALONE** and **HOME ALONE 2**. You can't really go wrong with those movies – they're Christmas staples, really, aren't they? And then what's that one with Arnold Schwarzenegger in it? **JINGLE ALL THE WAY**! I think that's great, too. Christmas movies are the best!"

OZZY OSBOURNE

METAL'S PRINCE OF DARKNESS AIN'T READY TO SLOW DOWN YET...

SEASON'S GREETINGS, OZZY. THIS YEAR SAW THE BLACK SABBATH REUNION TOUR COME TO AN END. LOOKING BACK, HOW WAS IT?
"Our world tour was one of the best-organised tours I've ever done. The tours are always well-organised because Sharon does it all – she knows what she's doing. We had great gigs. I'm always on the road in the summertime, usually in America or Europe, but on the Sabbath tour we did so much work in Europe. Then we did New Zealand, Australia, Japan and Russia. I only do it now on private jets because airports drive me nuts and I can't stand being on a bus more than an hour now. When I used to drink and get fucked up, the longer the journey, the better off our lives would be!"

DO YOU HAVE ANY REGRETS FROM THE RUN?
"The only thing I was sad about was it didn't work out with Bill [Ward, Sabbath's founding drummer], because it would've been lovely to end it properly. But, as it happens, it was probably a godsend, because Bill got sick and had to have some surgery."

HAS IT INSPIRED YOU TO HAVE ANOTHER STAB AT THINGS IN THE FUTURE?
"We are going to do another [tour], we're going to do another album. I think it might be the last one we do together. I don't know for sure, but I believe it could be the last tour we ever do together because we're all getting old now, the boys, and we just want to end it on an up note. I mean, when I first left Sabbath in '79, it ended in a fucked-up, bad place. But Sabbath really was the catalyst for everything I'm about today. When I think back, from record number one we just got hits after hits after hits. People say, 'What's the secret?' The chemistry was perfect."

ASIDE FROM LIFE ON THE ROAD, HOW WAS YOUR 2014 PERSONALLY?
"It was great, because I got cleaned up. I did a tour sober. I've no complaints; it was one of the best years I've had in a long time, because I finally got my head out of my butt, you know? Just the fact that I don't drink anymore. I don't think I've been this sober in my life. It's been 18 months; it's the longest I've ever been sober. I was always throwing a fucking pill or snorting this or whatever."

LAURA JANE GRACE

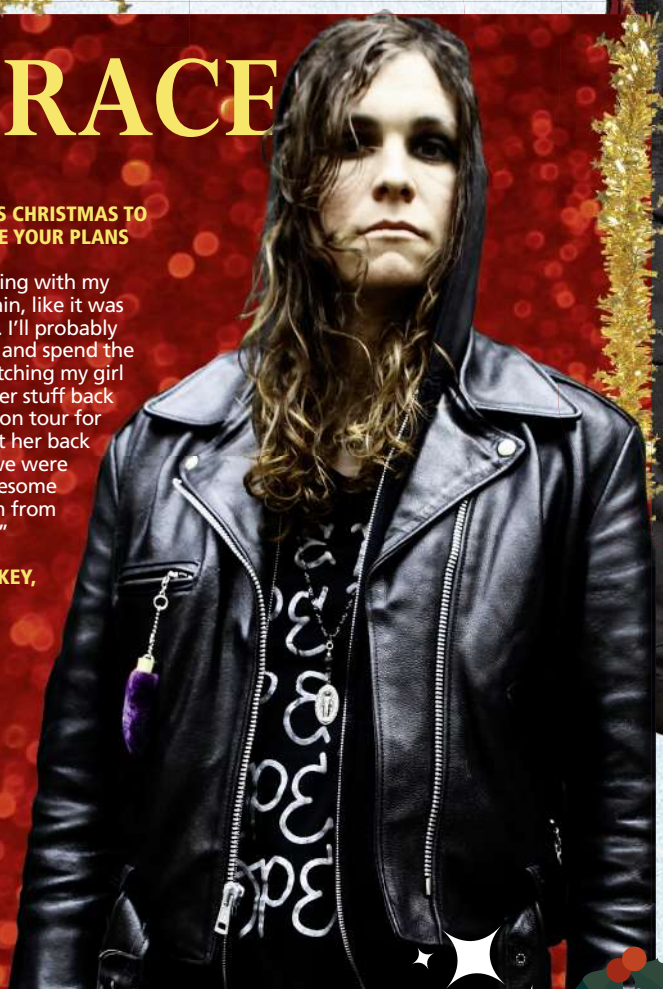
2014: THE YEAR PUNK ROCK, AND AGAINST ME!, BROKE – AGAIN

2014 SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A YEAR OF REJUVENATION FOR AGAINST ME!...
"Absolutely! I feel like there are so many possibilities with our band at this point in time. I feel there's more of a future for us now than there has ever been. Atom [Willard, Against Me! drummer] and Inge [Johansson, bassist] coming into the band has been wonderful and I'm very grateful for what they bring both as musicians, but also as far as making us a unit of people. Being part of a team is what I've always wanted; just you against the world."

THAT SAID, ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO TAKING SOME TIME OFF?
"It'll be nice to have a moment of reflection at the end of this crazy year. I have had a new beginning this past 12 months, really, musically speaking. At the start of the year it was all about, 'We have to get the record out,' and then after that who knew what was going to happen – would there even be a band after that?! So, it will be great to sit there, look back and go, 'Okay, we did it! We released a record, we went on tour, finished the year and we're all still here!'"

AND AS WELL AS REST, THERE'S CHRISTMAS TO LOOK FORWARD TO! WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS THIS YEAR?
"Christmas for me is about being with my daughter – it makes it fun again, like it was when you yourself were a kid. I'll probably visit my mum and my brother and spend the day opening presents and watching my girl play with toys! I try to bring her stuff back from the places I get to go to on tour for her to enjoy, as well. I brought her back a stuffed animal from when we were in New Zealand and some awesome socks that say 'Osaka' on them from Japan. She loves those things."

DO YOU GO FOR THE FULL TURKEY, TRIMMINGS AND TRADITION?
"(*Laughs*) I mean, Christmas doesn't have anything to do with Christian religion for me, but having a young child it is hard not to get into the whole Santa business! I always think it's a shame that you have to have an excuse to get together, but, at the same time, having that moment for people to take time out of their busy lives and reconnect with people around them is fantastic."



WORDS: TOMAS DOYLE, JOHN LONGBOTTOM PHOTOS: PAUL HARRIES

COREY TAYLOR

THE SLIPKNOT BEAST – AND ITS FRONTMAN – FINALLY AWOKE THESE PAST 12 MONTHS...

WHAT LIFE LESSONS, IF ANY, DO YOU THINK 2014 HAS BROUGHT YOU, COREY?

"One of the things I realised this year is that this band is now bigger than its pieces. God forbid anything should happen to the rest of us, but even if it did, I now believe that we could continue on, because it's not about the people who are in Slipknot anymore – it's about the name and about the music we have helped to create. So, if anything happened to me, they could get someone as passionate as me and they could push forward. This band is a way of life and an ethos. I mean, there are people trying to have Slipknot declared as a religion, which is the weirdest shit I have ever heard of, but let's put it this way: we put the cult in culture!"

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

"This year has proven that I can still write and perform and record. You've got to remember that before I started writing lyrics for .5: The Gray Chapter, I had no idea what I was going to say. I knew we were going to have to talk about Paul, but I had no idea how to do that. There was definitely a lack of confidence. Putting the album together has given me a new lease on what we can do. I've developed some things about myself as an artist and rediscovered some strengths I think I've always had."

DO YOU HAVE ANY REGRETS FROM THE PAST 12 MONTHS?

"The only regret I can think of is if I've hurt anyone. With everything that's happened in recent years, I've become incredibly aware of what I have, and that has humbled me and reigned me in. Despite that, it is sometimes hard to keep my temper in check. So, I regret if I've upset anyone or ruined their day. That aside, you have to treat regrets like paperbacks – you throw them out and move on to the next chapter."

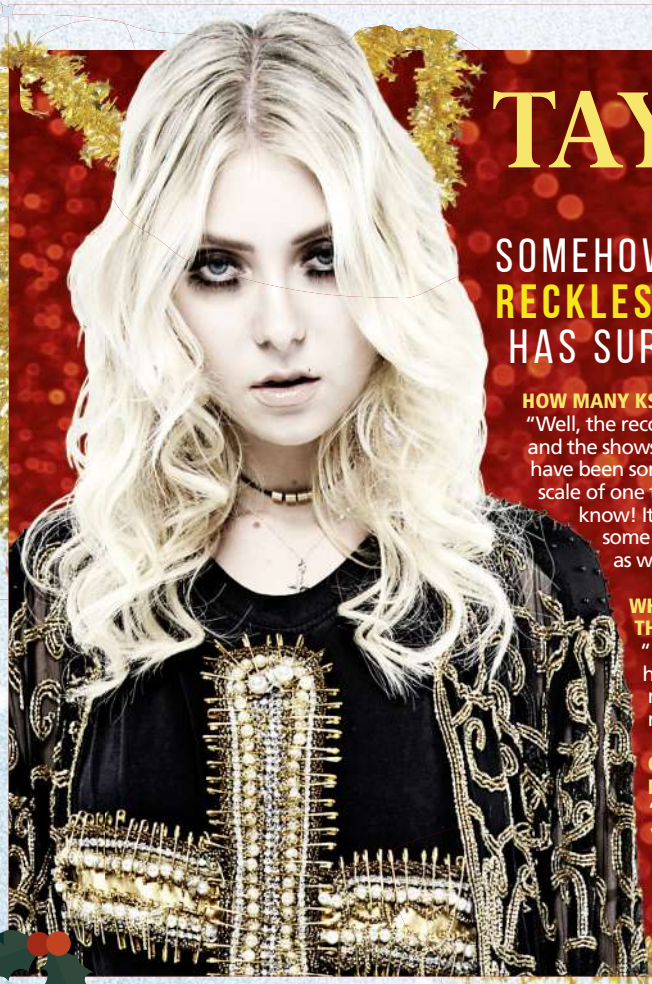
WHAT'S THE COOLEST THING YOU'VE DONE IN 2014, AND WHICH PEOPLE HAVE INSPIRED YOU?

"I got to do some shows with Kings Of Chaos at the beginning of the year. What that basically meant was that I got to go to South America with a plane full of my heroes! Watching how cool some of those people were, from [former Black Sabbath frontman] Glenn Hughes to [Def Leppard singer] Joe Elliott, was really inspiring. That showed me that it doesn't matter who you are; it's who you *want* to be that's important. My whole goal in life is to be a better person and to treat people well – because that stuff will come back on you. What I've always struggled with is, how do you do that being the lead singer of two huge bands, one of which is the biggest, scariest, craziest fucking metal band on the planet? But when you see someone like Glenn Hughes, who has been through hell and come out the other side, being so brilliant, you think, 'Why can't I do that?'"

> **"THERE'S A JOY I HAVEN'T FELT IN A LONG TIME"**

HOW DO YOU THINK YOU'LL REMEMBER 2014 IN YEARS TO COME?

"It's been a hell of a 12 months. There's a joy that I haven't felt in a long, long time, and I think that's what I'll remember most from this year. We've all had to go through a lot of shit to find it, but now that we've got it, we're determined to hold onto it."



TAYLOR MOMSEN

SOMEHOW, THE PRETTY RECKLESS VOCALIST HAS SURVIVED 2014...

HOW MANY KS WOULD YOU GIVE 2014?
"Well, the record's doing pretty awesome and the shows have been great. But there have been some bad things as well, so, on a scale of one to five, I'd say... I don't fucking know! It's just another year; we had some successes and some bad things as well, so it's one *through* five."

WHEN WERE YOU HAPPIEST THESE PAST 12 MONTHS?
"I don't know if I'm ever really happy! I tend to be pretty mellow, so I'd use that word rather than happy..."

OKAY, SO, WHEN WERE YOU MOST MELLOW?
"When I got to hold the vinyl version of [new album] Going To Hell in my hands. I grew up on vinyl and to finally have our record on vinyl was a fucking super cool moment. Now we have, like, four different vinyl [editions], 'cause they keep selling out – and they're printing a fifth!"

AND WHAT WAS YOUR LOWEST POINT IN 2014?
"2013 and 2014 kinda blend together for me. From death in our Pretty Reckless family, to sickness on the road, to... we've gone through three buses on this most recent tour. I sliced my ear open, one of our buses set on fire, I've been really ill... there have been a lot of things but, overall, things are still going so great that it pays off. It's been very much like Spinal Tap. One time I actually couldn't find the stage!"

YOU'VE PLAYED SOME BIG GIGS THIS YEAR – WHICH WAS YOUR FAVOURITE?
"Playing Wembley [Arena, with Fall Out Boy] was awesome, 'cause it's Wembley. Download was awesome. Rock On The Range festival was a big turning point for us in America. But our favourite gig was opening for Soundgarden in Quebec, Canada, to 90,000 people. It was the coolest fucking thing ever."

AND HOW WILL YOU SPEND CHRISTMAS?
"There's no such thing as time off in this world of ours, but hopefully around Christmas I'll be home and starting to write the new record. But I'm not sure yet – schedules change!"

AUSTIN CARLILE

MR OF MICE & MEN CERTAINLY DIDN'T SEE THIS YEAR COMING...

2014 HAS BEEN A BIG YEAR FOR YOU, AUSTIN. ARE THERE ANY PARTICULAR HIGHLIGHTS THAT STAND OUT?
"For us, getting the record out was a massive thing. When we released Restoring Force at the start of the year, we weren't quite sure where it was going to take us or how exactly it would be received, but slowly and surely we've seen our popularity grow. In terms of more specific things, I vividly remember the first time we played Another You in an arena. It's one of our slower songs, and the whole place was lit with lighters and mobile phones that people were holding up. It's a song that especially means a lot to me, so that made it even more of a significant moment."

DOES IT FEEL LIKE THIS HAS BEEN A LANDMARK YEAR FOR OF MICE & MEN?
"Yeah, it really does. It feels like we've really got some momentum behind us at this point, particularly across the UK and Europe where the fans have always been great. I'm not sure any of us quite expected that our last show of the year would be in The O2 Arena in London with Linkin Park, though! Compare that to the last show of last year and... well, I can't even remember what that was!"

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT YOURSELF PERSONALLY IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS?
"This will sound weird, but I've learned that I *truly* love music. I know I've been in bands for most of my life at this point, and I've been touring since I was a teenager – but I think this has been the year where I've really discovered my passion for making music and realised the fact that I can't live without doing it. For example, there have been times when we've been in the studio this year and we've had a tough day or whatever, and I've gone to bed going, 'I'm sick of this,' and not feeling great about it. But the fact that I've been able to wake up every single morning feeling full of hunger to continue creating has told me a lot about the importance of music to me."

WHERE'S THE COOLEST PLACE YOU'VE BEEN THIS YEAR?
"You know, I'd have to say Rome. There's just something about that city that I absolutely love, and the fans have always been incredible out there. It's a beautiful place; you can *feel* that you're standing amongst history."

WORDS: TOMAS DOYLE, JAMES MCMAHON, MARK SUTHERLAND PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

OLI SYKES

AS BRING ME THE HORIZON'S YEAR PROVES, YOU NEVER STOP LEARNING...

OLI, IN 2014 IT FELT LIKE BRING ME THE HORIZON WERE IN THE BEST PLACE THEY'VE EVER BEEN. YOU SEEM HAPPY, WHICH HASN'T ALWAYS BEEN THE CASE. WHAT HAPPENED?

"It's a combination of things. Jordan [Fish, joining the band], and me not being on drugs is probably another good one. We all want the same things now. At one point, we were all in different places, and now it's just easy. We all want to go out and tour, but we don't wanna be out for too long; we've all got girlfriends and families that we wanna see, you know? There was a point where it were different, where some people had girlfriends, and some didn't. Some people had to be out the whole time – we had to, because we wanted to make money. We've got the balance right now."

DO YOU FEEL HORIZON ARE IN A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN CHERRY-PICK WHAT YOU REALLY WANT TO DO NOW?

"Well, we're about to go to Asia [for a four-date November run] and I think we're just about going to break even [financially]. But it's gonna be an awesome experience, you know what I mean? Because we've had a month off before, we're not just running straight into it, and we're gonna get days off, [so] it's not just another job – it's more like we're going on holiday for two weeks. And that just takes some time when you're in a band; it takes time to realise what's important and what's worthwhile, and when to say no. There are always gonna be offers. Like, the Machine Head tour [in 2011, where Horizon were infamously bottled by Machine Head fans] was the tour we shouldn't have done; not because we got bottled, but because we'd toured so much by that point. It was really good money but we shouldn't have done it. It just finished us off."

SO, TO CLARIFY, YOU FEEL LIKE YOU CAN SAY NO NOW?

"That's always the case for bands – it's just *they* [managers, agents, labels, etc.] are very good at putting it in your head that that's not the case. You forget that they work for you. It's this weird role reversal where you feel guilty. They'll say, 'Do this, do this,' and if you say no you feel like you are being a dick, when you're not! They see everything in calendar days, so they think, 'This day you are there, then you'll be back for two days.' They don't see it like, 'It'll be a day of travelling, day there, day back, half a day… before you're back out…' If there's anything in our schedule now I didn't know about, I always know it's Jordan who's approved it [with him being new, thus not wise to such practices]."

"WE ALL WANT THE SAME THINGS NOW"

HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S JORDAN?

"Because they target him. They prey on the weak! I think I was always apprehensive and I'd say, 'We can't do that.' The other guys would say, 'We need to do this because they've told us we need to.' I can remember once saying I didn't want to do something and [the rest of the band] saying, 'Well, you need to chill out, don't you – you've just come out of rehab.' But it was nothing to do with that. It was just what I thought we should do…"

SO, BASICALLY, YOU'RE SAYING THAT 2014 WAS THE YEAR HORIZON TOOK THE POWER BACK? THE YEAR YOU TRULY DECIDED TO DO THINGS ON YOUR TERMS?

"What I've learned is it's not working if you've got to constantly keep it powered. If it's not getting bigger and growing on its own, if you're always slogging your guts out and having to tweet and push just to get your shows sold, then it's not working. You need to get to a point and trust yourselves and have a bit of confidence that everything's going well. Basically, you need to believe in your band enough to do things how you want."

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THE SMALL PRINT!

Kerrang! Radio will also still be on DAB digital radio in London, but you might need to retune to find us. For more information on retuning and other ways to listen, just head to Kerrangradio.co.uk. We appreciate many of you may have questions or concerns about how you can still listen to your favourite radio station, and if you're still unsure of anything, you can always reach us by sending an email to kerrangqueries@bauermedia.co.uk.

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SHOTS!

DECK THE HALLS WITH BANDS AND BLU TACK

SLIPKNOT

"Corey Taylor hates Christmas," explains photographer Paul Harries, "but I think this would be a great new look for Santa. 'Ho fuckin' ho!'" Imagine if Corey was actually Father Christmas… we'd get stockings full of maggots, and he'd almost definitely let Rudolph poo on the lawn.

DON BROCO

"We might have needed a little bit of help from Rob's mum to decorate the house for this shoot," says snapper Ian Collins. "After we finished shooting, it felt a little sad packing it all away." Imagine how sad Rob's mum feels having to decorate for the second time in a year. Poor woman.

MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE

Here's Gerard Way and co doing a bit of carol singing back in the day. Frank Iero must have been doing his Christmas shopping, because it looks like they've brought Dennis the Menace in his place. We didn't even know Dennis could sing… oh wait, no, that is actually Frank.

TONIGHT ALIVE

"It's always good walking into a shoot with elf ears and Santa hats," laughs snapper Andrew Lipovsky. "Luckily, the band were feeling the Christmas spirit, and once they got their hands on the props, they let loose." Yeah, guys, we'd like our mantelpiece decorations back now, please. Guys…

PAPA ROACH

Now here's something we never thought we'd see… Jacoby Shaddix wearing something other than a black cut-off denim jacket. Him and the rest of Papa Roach must have donned those jumpers for a special occasion. We can't think what, though. Nope, not a clue.

BABYMETAL

"When Babymetal came to the K! office, it was probably one of the weirdest days of the year," says Paul. "They arrived with a huge entourage, including stylists, film crew and a translator, as they speak very little English, but they did do a very sweet 'we are Babymetal' song for me."

KERRANG!
Slipknot
Corey Taylor
PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

PHOTO: IAN COLLINS

PHOTO: JENNY LEWIS

GREENDAY

Merry Christmas
Avenged Sevenfold

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AVENGED SEVENFOLD

GREENDAY

KERRANG!
Tonight Alive
PHOTO: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

KERRANG!
Papa Roach

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

‘Would I have made it without the MU? Probably. If I was starting out again, would I still join? Definitely.’

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(I pro

K! KERRISTMAS DINNER

~~Three~~ Five Wise Men: (*From left*) Dani Winter-Bates, Frank Iero, Rou Reynolds, Mikey Chapman and James Veck-Gilodi

CY
mise)

"Why did they let the turkey join the band?" reads Mikey Chapman from a small piece of paper. "Because it had the drum sticks!"

A table of non-amused faces stare back. No, the Mallory Knox frontman hasn't branched out into stand-up comedy – he's just sampling the cracker jokes at this year's Kerrang! Kerristmas dinner.

Christmas is a time for families to come together, which is why we've brought this extended rock family – Mikey, Frank Iero, Rou Reynolds (Enter Shikari), Dani Winter-Bates (Bury Tomorrow) and James Veck-Gilodi (Deaf Havana) – to a swish pub, all cream walls and creaky wooden floorboards, in London's Camden Town.

On the face of it, they're very different people – all the way from Mallory's Mikey, who's fast becoming the face of young British rock, to Frank Iero, the world-famous My Chemical Romance guitarist – but they're here to talk about the one thing that unites them: music and a life spent on the road. And unlike the cheap wine plonked upon the table's pillar-box red cloth, 2014 has been a vintage year for everyone here…

The person whose life has changed the most this year is Frank Iero, who's pulling a cracker with Bury Tomorrow frontman Dani (who isn't impressed with his reward of marbles, exclaiming, "Are these crackers from the Victorian times?!"). Back at the start of 2013, the New Jerseyite was still a member of My Chemical Romance, but he's spent the whole of 2014 as a solo artist (with a little help from his band who make up the 'cellabration' part of frnkiero andthe cellabration).

While the August release of Frank's debut album, .Stomachaches., should have been the highlight of his year, it turned into a "whirlwind" after his father underwent triple heart bypass surgery the same week.

"I played an in-store when the record came out, and had to get straight back to the hospital immediately, and I did the same when I went on tour," explains the singer, today nursing a mug of hot water and lemon. "I can't imagine what it's like to lose a loved one, so finding out he was okay was one of the greatest moments of this year."

While nothing could top that outcome, this year in general has been more than Frank ever expected, since he "didn't really plan on showing anybody" the record when he wrote it, and certainly didn't expect to go solo.

"I feel like solo careers are stupid!" he says, as his roast salmon fillet drizzled in champagne thermidor sauce arrives (see, we told you this pub was fancy). "There's a certain stigma with [going solo] – you're just an asshole, that's what it actually means," he laughs. "But I didn't have a choice. I wrote these songs and was like, 'What am I gonna do now?' So I just had to go out and do it."

And, as he cuts into a mini crab cake, Frank admits the process has been "excruciating".

"As much as I love music, I also hate it at the same time," he continues. "I know I'm not a happy person when I'm not being creative, so I need to do this, but, at the same time, it brings me such pain and sorrow."

Going solo might suck for Frank, but for James Veck-Gilodi, picking up a guitar on his own and putting out a couple of folky acoustic tracks during downtime from Deaf Havana has reinvigorated him. "Band life was getting stale!" he admits, piling roast potatoes onto his fork. "I've put stuff online, but haven't actually released anything yet. I have no expectations – that's

WORDS: JENNYFER J.WALKER **PHOTOS:** PAUL HARRIES
WITH THANKS TO THE EDINBORO CASTLE, MORNINGTON TERRACE, LONDON, NW1

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT THE XMAS SEASON?

Mikey says… FOOD

"We Chapmans eat a hell of a lot! We have, like, three different joints of meat and all the trimmings. It's so good. Mostly it's my mum who cooks. My dad tries to help, but he's a bit useless, like me. My culinary skills are next to none. We eat all day, and on Boxing Day, too. It's horribly gluttonous, but that's how we do it!"

Rou regaled Dani with the story of the Xmas Eve he got so drunk, he wee'd himself

what I love about it! I'm doing it just for me."

While James is chipper now, things weren't so great at the start of 2014. After a less-than-successful tour of the U.S. with Ash, where the sextet would spend 13 hours driving through the snow "to play to about 10 people", they went straight out on a more enjoyable tour of Europe with You Me At Six. Having just 10 days at home in four months, though, took its toll.

"I was gonna quit the band," admits the singer. "I just couldn't do it anymore. I had no money and the shows were awful…"

But things turned around with the highlights of his year – a UK headline tour in April, and also a Main Stage slot at Reading & Leeds in August. "I had to keep reminding myself it was real!" he smiles. "I was so nervous; I couldn't play guitar because I was shaking, but the crowd were *phenomenal*!"

And nerves are something Frank can relate to when playing to crowds of any size.

"Half a Xanax before I play is mandatory so I can keep my head straight," he admits. "My stomach is the worst from the nerves, so I carry a bag of pills with me. You'll hear me when I jingle away (*laughs*)!"

No amount of antianxiety pills or booze – James' preshow requisite – have made either of these reluctant frontman enjoy their position centre stage.

"The worst part for me is the singing," says Frank, sweeping his raven fringe out of his eyes. "I fucking hate it *so* much! I really do. I never wanted to be a singer."

"Same," laughs James. "Every day I've ever been onstage, I just wanna be a guitarist. I love singing, but I hate everything that comes with it."

At the other end of the table is Rou Reynolds: a man who has no reservations about standing front and centre, and leaping across a stage in front of a field full of thousands, as he did during *his* Main Stage performance at R&L this summer. Although bar that, some European festivals, and an end-of-year trip to Japan, the singer spent most of his 2014 squirrelled away creating Enter Shikari's fourth album, The Mindsweep.

While the St Albans quartet recorded its predecessor, 2012's A Flash Flood Of Colour, in the exotic setting of Thailand, this time they stayed a little more local, working out of a studio in the Lincolnshire countryside.

"Strangely, we ended up enjoying it just as much," admits Rou, separating parsnips (his most-hated vegetable) from the rest of the food on his plate. "The studio was in the middle of nowhere – just woodland and moors. I love the traditional British countryside. We took mics and went for walks around the woods and lakes, so there's loads of layered nature sounds in the mix. It was good fun."

Having the record completed, though, is "bittersweet" for Rou, as he's gone from twiddling knobs to twiddling his thumbs.

"It was a really good time and

Honestly, guys. *Sausages wrapped in bacon.* No, it's not witchcraft…

Dani says… GIVING

"It sounds really clichéd, but unconditional giving is my favourite thing about Xmas. A lot of people are cynical about lots of holidays, like Valentine's Day, but I think the fact that most of the world has one day where they think about someone else rather than themselves breeds positivity. It's about people coming together, and that, for me, is what Christmas is about."

now we're in that horrible limbo period where the album is sitting there, so I just can't wait for it to be released!" he says.

While Rou's got to wait until January for people to hear his efforts, Mikey Chapman has spent the past two months on the receiving end of praise for Mallory Knox's 4K-rated Asymmetry.

"Being in the studio was the most amazing experience," he says, adjusting the silver tinsel draped around his neck. Once the band got over the disaster of their first studio burning down (they later relocated to producer Gil Norton's home studio in Devon), the recording process became a fun bonding experience for the band. "We went out and partied more times than I'd like Gil to know about," he grins, cheekily. The quintet even found time between the recording and partying to torment drummer Dave Rawling, who spent the duration of their studio incarceration moaning about the state of the shower.

"It got to the point where we'd just make it horrible to piss him off," laughs the frontman, who also dodges the veg on his plate, bar three slices of carrot. "We'd angle the shower so it would squirt out at him! Little things like that make living in the studio for four months with the same people worthwhile."

Album completed, Mallory played to a cochlea-damaging crowd at Reading & Leeds ("The cheers weren't cheers – they were roars!" Mikey enthuses) and their own headline tour in November, where Mikey came away with a friend for life in the form of support act Frank Iero. The pair bonded over tea and dog farts after Frank and his band stayed at Mikey's house.

"He was a great host," smiles Frank. "He made me two cups of tea that fucking ruined tea for me – I've been chasing that tea high and it's still not happening – and we got farted on by all his dogs. And now everything we have in the van smells like dog farts…"

"Noooo! Are you serious?" laughs Mikey, slightly red-faced. "It was awesome having everyone over to stay," admits the guy who nailed the perfect cuppa (which for Frank is no milk, but two sugars). "I feel like we've made some proper friends on this tour. It's been one of those years where I thought last year was the best year I ever had, and then this year comes around and just trumps it."

Someone else filing 2014 in the folder marked 'best year ever' is Bury Tomorrow frontman Dani Winter-Bates. His "really bloody busy" year consisted of a Download Main Stage performance, headlining a stage at Slam Dunk, and a trip *all* the way to Australia.

"Being able to play a headline tour in Australia was just silly," says the singer, pouring himself another glass of beer. "Being in the UK, you never expect that anyone gives a shit about your band, so when you manage to go to the arse-end of nowhere and someone actually cares, whether it's five people or 500, it's a pretty awesome feeling!"

It's a sentiment shared by Rou, who had never even been out of the UK before Enter Shikari ("Apart from to Guernsey," he laughs). "Travelling is still really exciting! Not that you get much time in any place." Which is why, when the frontman fulfilled his childhood dream of going to Athens (the non-album related highlight of his year), he demanded a day off, and spent it walking the same steps as Socrates.

The standout moment of Dani's year, however, happened right here in Camden, when the Southampton metallers flogged all 1,410 tickets to their headline KOKO show.

"You get to London and think, 'What if half the people don't come?' and then you walk out and it's a sold-out KOKO…" he smiles. "That was next-level."

And the plan for next year? Apart from the Kerrang! Tour 2015, of course…

"We're just gonna keep doing exactly what we've done every year, and hopefully it happens again!" says Dani, as chocolate brownies, Christmas puddings and lemon tarts are distributed among our diners. "I want our band to get to a stage where it's playing huge stadiums – it probably won't happen, but I wanna see us playing to as many people as possible."

"Gotta shoot for the stars, dude!" adds Mikey, with a mouthful of brownie. "I say it all the time: don't shoot for the stars and settle halfway."

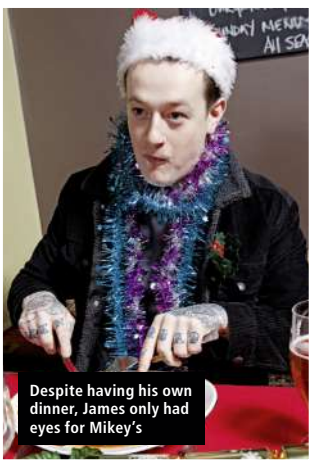
If everybody continues on the beer and wine, the only stars anyone will be reaching for will be in front of their face when the day-drinking hangovers kick in, so it's time for everyone to go home for their actual Christmas day. For Frank, that means making the trek to see his grandmother in South Jersey. James will be leaving his loved ones and jetting off to meet his girlfriend's parents in Columbia, as will Rou, who's off to Budapest with his girlfriend and her family. Dani will be spending his first Christmas as a vegetarian getting "very merry", while Mikey is preparing for a frantic last-minute shopping spree, after which he'll be "eating a lot and doing very little".

But whatever Santa affords these five rockstars come December 25, they've already had the best present anyone could have asked for: another awesome year of rock. And we'll raise our glasses to that.

James says… FAMILY

"We've always spent Christmas at my grandparents' house, since I was a little kid, but I haven't really enjoyed Christmas that much since I found out that Father Christmas wasn't real. My grandad told me 'round about Christmas time, because he thought that I was too old to still believe in Father Christmas. I was about eight or nine years old. He ruined the magic!"

If this band thing doesn't work out, at least Mikey has a future in food modelling



Despite having his own dinner, James only had eyes for Mikey's

Frank says… NOTHING

"I hate Christmas – I think it's the worst! I think the whole idea of the commerce of it and everything is sickening, and I hate that they start advertising for shit before Hallowe'en. It ruins Hallowe'en! Being with family is the most wonderful thing, so if that's the excuse to do that, it's great. But as far as the holiday goes, it's rubbish!"

It's alright, Frank, we've still got the receipt…

Spoiler alert: it's a breadmaker, mate

Rou says… AN AFTER-DINNER WALK

"I do like a good after-dinner walk. I know it's quite a clichéd, overly romantic scenario, but it's good fun, and you kind of need it after the dinner. I could literally just spend the whole Christmas night on that sofa, so it's good to have a walk and get myself feeling human again."

A CHRISTMAS TODON CAROL

ILLNESS, INJURY AND DEATH HAVE HAUNTED MASTODON'S 2014 LIKE THE GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS. THAT THEY'VE EVEN SURVIVED THE PAST 12 MONTHS, BRANN DAILOR TELLS MATT ALLEN, IS IN NO SMALL PART THANKS THEIR ABILITY TO SING FROM THE SAME HYMN SHEET…

PHOTO: DAVE WILLIS

We'll give you a fiver if you Just. Go. Away… (*from left*) Brann Dailor, Bill Kelliher, Troy Sanders and Brent Hinds

MASTODON

Christmas is coming and Mastodon are channelling some serious festive spirit. There's still over a month to go until The Big Day, but as the Atlanta prog-metal four-piece – bassist Troy Sanders, drummer Brann Dailor, and guitarists Brent Hinds and Bill Kelliher – gather backstage at London's O2 Academy Brixton, a yuletide buzz zings through the air.

Jokes are cracked and carols warbled at full volume while they decorate themselves in Santa hats and tinsel. Maybe they've been lifted by the gift-wrapped news that the cavernous, corkscrew guitars of sixth studio album Once More 'Round The Sun have catapulted it into the Top 30 of Kerrang!'s Albums Of The Year rundown. Or perhaps the feel-good factor is coming from their momentous 2014: a killer record, huge shows, and widespread love, all capped with another sold-out UK tour. *Whatever.* The vibes ricocheting around today are as helium-high as the balloons tied to Brent's neck.

So, on the face of it, good times are here. All is calm, all is bright. Except, this is Mastodon – a band who have spent 15 years summoning their mind-bending riffola from a seemingly never-ending well of personal chaos and heart-rending tragedies. In the past few years, they've experienced more family deaths and heartbreak than most bands could handle in a lifetime.

Much of this darkness was covered in the lyrical spine to OMRTS. But according to Brann – chosen spokesperson for the band today – 2014 has brought some pretty bleak times, too. "I was feeling like someone had a voodoo doll of me," he says. "They were fucking with me and I wanted them to stop because I'd paid my price. I felt like, 'Hey, I'm done! Please stop!' I've had some cataclysmic stuff happen."

"I FELT LIKE SOMEONE HAD A VOODOO DOLL, AND THEY WERE FUCKING WITH ME"

BRANN DAILOR

He's making light of the situation, but Brann's laughter carries a hollow timbre. When asked to detail the stresses of the past 12 months, a list of harrowing incidents are rattled off in a checklist. According to the 39-year-old, 2014 has brought more death, more family illnesses. His mum currently requires constant medical care having been taken sick in January. He later contracted scabies. "Twenty-four hours of itching, covered head to toe in welts," he says. "I wouldn't wish it on my worst enemy."

Throughout this heartache, beyond the turmoil, there was one constant in Brann's life: Mastodon, the band he'd help start in 2000; the creative release that has long served as an emotional crutch. All four members understand the agony of personal loss. The Hunter, their fifth album, released in 2011, was named in tribute to Brent's brother, who died on a sporting expedition; Crack The Skye was named after Brann's sister Skye, who died by suicide at the age of 14. But even before then, it was settled that their studio work should be a "vehicle to deal with the hardest parts of being on the planet".

"We all shook hands and agreed [on that] during Crack The Skye," says Brann. "Losing people, and those epic moments in your life, can be manifested in a song. Hopefully that lends itself to something beautiful and represents that person's life, and how special they were, because we feel it as a band. Over time, we've trusted Mastodon so much that we've given it the deepest, darkest pieces of ourselves."

In some ways, the band has become a bunker, a place to bury demons. Brann isn't sure, but he believes the physical release that comes with drumming plays some significant part in keeping him on an even keel, especially during times of stress. "Drumming has been there since I was very small," he says. "I'm able to step back and deal with heavy situations in a way that maybe I wouldn't be able to if I didn't have such an aggressive and physical outlet as drums."

He even likens their rehearsal space in Atlanta to a shelter from the raging emo-storm outside. "We had to make it a fun, happy place to be," he says. "A retreat. You can picture the tornado and blowing leaves. You'd get in, slam the door and say, 'Oh thank God! Have you been outside? *Fuck!*' Then you'd play Blasteroid."

The high points of their year have vibrated within OMRTS's epic aftershocks: the sound of a wilfully proggy noise unit finding its hooks. Rushing harmonies can be located beneath the heavy guitar payload of Tread Lightly and Feast Your Eyes; High Road and Aunt Lisa (a tribute to Brann's recently passed aunt; "an inspiration, a free spirit") are ballsy pop punches. "It's been a banner year," nods Brann.

Where Mastodon are compelled to head next will make for interesting listening. Brann claims the endgame is to make Mastodon "the best Mastodon they can be". He explains how everyone is protective of the band, that the quartet are in the calmest mood they've been for a while ("Everyone has chilled out to a big degree. Even Brent"). Though he states that when it comes to making merry studio hell, they're always keen to "get weird".

"Recording's always going to be about where we're at as people – that dictates it. Mastodon is a divining rod that gets pointed in whichever direction it points in. We just follow the tug."

His desires for 2015 are more basic, more clear-cut, however. "When I get home, it's the light and fluffy life – me, my wife, my dog and my cat. Watching movies, chilling out, not having scabies. So, my resolution for 2015: I would like to not die."

He's not kidding, either, even as the band break into song one final time. "Seriously, that's my resolution for the year. James Hetfield said it best: What don't kill you, make you more strong."

Amen to that, brother.

THAT'S WHAT I CALL KERRISTMAS!

WARNING: THIS FICTIONAL ALBUM CONTAINS AWFUL PUNS

1. BABY, IT'S GROHL OUTSIDE
2. WATAIN IN A WINTER WONDERLAND
3. MASTODINGDONG MERRILY ON HIGH
4. O LITTLE TOWN OPETHLEHEM
5. WE THREE KERRY KINGS OF ORIENT ARE
6. FALL OUT BOY TO THE WORLD
7. GERARD WAY IN A MANGER
8. LARS! THE HERALD ANGELS SING
9. FRED DURSTY THE SNOWMAN
10. WHILE SLIPKNOT WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT
11. SILENT TONIGHT ALIVE
12. ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS YOU ME AT SIX

PANEL: MIKE RAMPTON

HAIL SANTA!

ROCKSTARS DON'T HAVE *EVERYTHING* IN LIFE – WHICH IS WHY THEY'LL BE ASKING SANTA FOR THESE GIFTS COME XMAS MORNING!

SAM CARTER, ARCHITECTS

DEAR ROCK SANTA...

"For Christmas, I'd like the dolphin slaughter in Taiji to stop. It's crazy how that's still happening; it's completely barbaric and horrible, and hundreds of dolphins die every day. If it can't be stopped, then awareness being raised would be a good thing, and more protests outside the Japanese embassy. I missed the last one because we were flying out to the States, but otherwise I would have been there. Also, I've moved in with my girlfriend recently, and tools are always good, and you can't go wrong with a good drill! I could use it to put up a single shelving unit to put my lovely Kerrang! Award on, and then when the other ones come I can break out the drill again. Oh, and I'm really into that TV show, New Girl, so I'd happily have a box set of that!"

BECCA MACINTYRE, MARMOZETS

DEAR ROCK SANTA...

"What I really want for Christmas is the Best Christmas Day Ever! We've been away so much and we get home right before Christmas, and once we get there it's just all about family and having a great time. It's always big and loud and so much fun, and we always have other people joining us. Last year, it was an Australian friend who couldn't make it home for Christmas, and it really is a case of the more the merrier! Dinner is always quite funny – all the jokes come out and I can't wait for that. We don't even get drunk on Christmas Day! We used to on Christmas Eve, but we're not allowed to anymore, because my mum doesn't want us all hungover. The thing is, it's such a happy day, you don't even *need* to get pissed! It's all about the love and laughter!"

ROBB FLYNN, MACHINE HEAD

DEAR ROCK SANTA...

"I found out that it's true that the meaning of Christmas changes when you have kids – it's all about them, and I don't think I've even had a Christmas present in 10 years, which is fine by me. But I wouldn't say no to a Dodge Challenger. That car is sick – it's so fucking badass! I've always been a muscle car dude, and the modern ones look like the old school ones, but with everything you want in a modern car. I've had classic cars before, but because I'm away on tour all the time, every time I get home the fucking thing doesn't run, and I'm dropping hundreds of dollars at the mechanics! The downside might be that my family would see a lot less of me: 'I've got to go to the store for milk – see you in three hours!'"

SIMON NEIL, BIFFY CLYRO

DEAR ROCK SANTA...

"I'd like my beard to grow back quick, Santa! I accidentally shaved it off and I'm half the man I used to be. So, Santa, I need my hair follicles to double in speed. The next thing I'd like is a new product in the Lego Architecture line, because I've completed every single piece that they have, and the only one available is £800 for some Singaporean hotel – and I'm not spending £800 on fucking Lego! So, Santa, I need you to speak to the Danes and to sort that shit out. Lastly, I really want a motorbike! My missus says no, because I'm quite accident-prone. But I think you could probably persuade her otherwise, Santa. I'd need lessons to go with the bike, but maybe the boys in Biffy will get me those!"

VIC FUENTES, PIERCE THE VEIL

DEAR ROCK SANTA...

"For Christmas I'd like a new guitar. This random guy I met at Disneyland with his family told me this really sweet story about how they'd play the baby our music to stop the baby from having seizures. They were so thankful, and the guy was like, 'I make guitars, I want to make you a guitar to thank you.' He's been emailing me ever since, saying he's going to make me a Batman guitar. That would be a really good Christmas present for me. Aside from that, I just can't wait to spend a little time with my family. I've only got to see my parents for two days in the last half year, so being able to spend time with them will be crucial to my own sanity!"

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR, MARK SUTHERLAND, JENNIFER WALKER ILLO: PHIL MARSDEN

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"SLIPKNOT SOUND LIKE A CHAINSAW!"

THE SONGS OF 2014... REVIEWED BY CELEBS!

STARRING!

PETER ANDRE
Part-time popster, full-time famous man

BILL BAILEY
Sonisphere-playing comedy god

DYNAMO
Brain-melting TV magic man

KATIE BULMER-COOKE
Recently fired Apprentice candidate

PARAMORE – AIN'T IT FUN

PETER ANDRE: "I like it straight away! It's got great rhythm. (*Hums along*) Do you know what? Within a few seconds of hearing something, you know if you are going to like it or not. This was an instant. Very good. But I expected it to be real rock, and it wasn't. It had elements of rock but it was more funky than anything. I love it."

BILL BAILEY: "This lot had a bit of an upheaval, didn't they? Two of them left or something? Anyway, this is alright; very arena-ready. It's upbeat, got a lot of clap-along parts. I can imagine it's good for raking leaves to or something equally outdoors-y. If you're into this sort of thing, this is done very, very well."

DYNAMO: "You might not think it's my cup of tea, but I don't mind Paramore. This Paramore song is a bit more commercial than others I've heard. I can imagine it's the sort of things girls will put on when they're getting ready to go for a night out."

KATIE BULMER-COOKE: "I always listen to songs from the point of view of what I'd play in my fitness classes, and this one would be great; I love the pace and the video's great. And I love her hair! I *wish* I could pull that off!"

SLIPKNOT – THE NEGATIVE ONE

PA: "This guy's *angry*. But I get it! *Nnnyyyeeer* – it's like a chainsaw. You could lift some heavy weights to this – that's a training song. Would I wake up first thing in the morning and wanna hear it? No. I'd wanna have coffee and I wanna wake up first, but if you haven't got coffee, that's the song that's gonna wake you up."

BB: "This is bloody marvellous. I've not heard the new album yet, but I imagine this is indicative of it. And those lyrics!

D: "I don't mind Slipknot, but I don't know whether it's because I'm friends with them. Whenever they come into town, I hang out with them. My friend is the biggest Slipknot fan ever. When he heard the new album, he texted me, 'My god, Dynamo. Slipknot are back!'"

KB-C: "This really isn't my cup of tea! It's basically a bit too *raaargh*, and their masks freak me out a little bit. But it would actually do a very good job of summing up how we all felt when Lord Sugar would come in to the room!"

FALL OUT BOY – CENTURIES

PA: "I love it, I love it, I love it! You guys had better play me some bad stuff, because so far I've heard three songs that are all very different, but I love all of them for different reasons. This has a great melody."

BB: "I liked the sample at the start of this. Very clever. It sounds like it was written ready for an arena, which is incredibly confident and slightly arrogant. It's a good song, though. Hell of a chorus. Massive."

D: "This song is clever because of the hook. I've been a FOB fan for years. I met them in [posho nightclub] Chinawhite once with Kelly Osbourne and Rihanna."

KB-C: "I really like this – I could *totally* work out to it. It would be a good song to hear after you've been

fired by Lord Sugar; [it would] get your mood back up straight away!"

BLACK VEIL BRIDES – HEART OF FIRE

PA: "Give me a song I don't like. I'm liking this, too! And I'm not just saying this – if I didn't like it I would tell you."
BB: "Here's another one that you can do some outdoor work to – sandblasting a tractor, or something. You can just see it, can't you? A farmer doing a load of work going, 'I need a soundtrack. I know – Black Veil Brides!' Farmers don't get a lot of good music, it's mostly The Wurzels. They're due a few good bands. And farmers are probably an untapped audience for bands as well."
D: "I used to listen to this sort of stuff when I was young and into skateboarding and stuff. It sounds really dated, but I expect their fanbase are young enough to not know better. But, to me, it sounds like it could have been made years ago. It's a bit formulaic for this genre of music."
KB-C: "I wasn't quite so keen on this one. It's a bit too shouty, and I like the peppier, more upbeat stuff. The video was cool, though, with all the leather and flames, and it matched the song well, but it's not something I'd go back to."

BRING ME THE HORIZON – DROWN

PA: "I like how they applaud themselves before the song starts. It's good; I should do that. I love how it starts with high energy and then it comes right down."
BB: "This doesn't rate very high on the farmer scale – it's too introspective and technical. It needs to be simple, not contemplating your own death. Farmer music needs to be *'1-2-3-4!'*, otherwise the farmer gets sidetracked, loses focus and ends up getting his arm ripped off in machinery. Anyway, this is good. I've seen them live a few times and they're great."
D: "I like this. The singer started following me on Twitter and said he's a fan of my show. I'll probably download their album after this."
KB-C: "The video is quirky, but the song is average. I don't hate it, but it doesn't do a lot for me. It wouldn't get me pumped up to deliver a presentation if I'm nervous!"

BEHEMOTH – BLOW YOUR TRUMPETS GABRIEL

PA: "I'm scared shitless of this. Don't kill me for saying that, Behemoth. It's not that I don't respect your music, it's just that you scared me into not listening to the rest of the song. I'm sure it's great if you like fear!"
BB: "I absolutely *love* this. What a song! You won't be hearing this as a Children In Need single, will you? There's some really great musicianship on this – that drummer's doing a lot, a bit like Brann Dailor from Mastodon. His name's Inferno? Of course it is."
D: "This is my least favourite; it's too heavy for me. I know Slipknot are heavy but I'm accustomed to Slipknot. It's all a bit too much for my liking."
KB-C: "I got about 30 seconds into this and had to turn it off. It's too heavy for me; I just couldn't take any more. [Apprentice candidate] Dan [Lassman] would like this one best of all because it's crazy – and, like Dan, it just doesn't know when to stop!"

AC/DC – PLAY BALL

PA: "Yeah, I love AC/DC. You know straight away that it's going to be a classic. I thought I'd heard this before. Not because it sounds like another AC/DC song, but because it's classic; it's what AC/DC do."
BB: "It's brilliant, isn't it? It's good to know there are some things you can depend on. You can measure your age by AC/DC albums. It's classic AC/DC, isn't it? Three chords, innuendo-laden lyrics… 'A *fourth* chord?! Whaddya think this is – prog?'"
D: "This is a fun song, but I think that I'm from too young a generation for the AC/DC sound. It sounds too dated. And why do they still dress as young schoolboys?"
KB-C: "I like this one a lot, too. This *would* get you pumped up walking into the boardroom when you're scared, and I think it would put Lord Sugar in a good enough mood you might just avoid getting fired. Me mam plays guitar and she would probably like it, too!"

MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE – FAKE YOUR DEATH

PA: "I like the lyrics. This is good. I appreciate it. When I say I appreciate it, it's very different to other stuff I have heard today. Very different."
BB: "I thought they were no more? This is a sort of swan-song, is it? It's pretty good; there's a bit of a gospel feel to it. The video's got a lot of old clips of them playing live and whatnot. It doesn't really, to me, sum up what they were about, if that was the idea. It's good, though."
D: "I like this, but I'm sure I didn't hear the words 'Fake Your Death' in the whole song. [*It's actually sung once – Lyric Ed*]. Or maybe I'm getting a bit old? A few years ago they were in Munich at the MTV VMAs when they were the big band of the time. I was there, doing a trick for the Foo Fighters, and My Chemical Romance were very good live there. This song is okay, but I don't understand its title."
KB-C: "The lyrics are dark but the music is really upbeat, and I actually think it would be a great motivational track to work out to. I'm pretty sure I've heard some of their songs before, and I can definitely see myself playing this one!"

AGAINST ME! – BLACK ME OUT

PA: "This is a woman [singing]? That's amazing. *'I want to piss on the walls of your house'*? I love it. Listen, let me just clear something up. I am a little bit confused here. A woman, who used to be a man… Her voice sounds like it's got a lot of balls, you know what I mean? I love it, I love it. Her voice sounds great. Have you heard me sing? I'm a man and I sound like a woman! I hope I didn't say the wrong thing there."
BB: "This is pretty angry, it's a bit at odds with the music, which is all in a major key. The lyrics, though… I don't wanna be hosing down Against Me!'s piss off the walls of my house."
D: "I thought this was alright. It's kind of the sort of thing I'd expect to hear in the background of an extreme sports video. I hadn't heard of them before but I might check out some of their other stuff on YouTube."
KB-C: "This one's great. I love the intro, it's quirky and recognisable, and I could definitely imagine it being played in an indoor cycling class! [Ex Apprentice candidate] James [Hill] is a really upbeat guy, so this song would be perfect for him; it's all smiley and happy, just like he is!"

YOU ME AT SIX – FRESH START FEVER

PA: "You're gonna think I'm mad, but this is something I can hear Michael Jackson singing when he was doing the more rocky stuff."
BB: "This is another one that sounds like it was made for arenas. I've seen this lot live a few times and they're good. You ever been to Weybridge, though? You can feel all independent thought being crushed out of you as you drive through it, so well done to the band for doing as well as they have."
D: "I really love this. I'm a big fan of You Me At Six. Fresh Start Fever is a wicked driving tune; this is definitely one of those songs that everyone in the car will be singing along to."
KB-C: "I'm not the coolest person, so forgive me if my terminology's wrong, but I found this one quite heavy, and personally I prefer things that are more upbeat. But, I can easily imagine it soundtracking someone walking out of the boardroom, snarling!"

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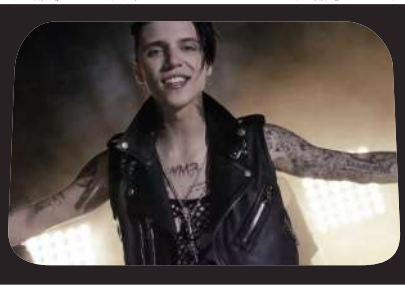
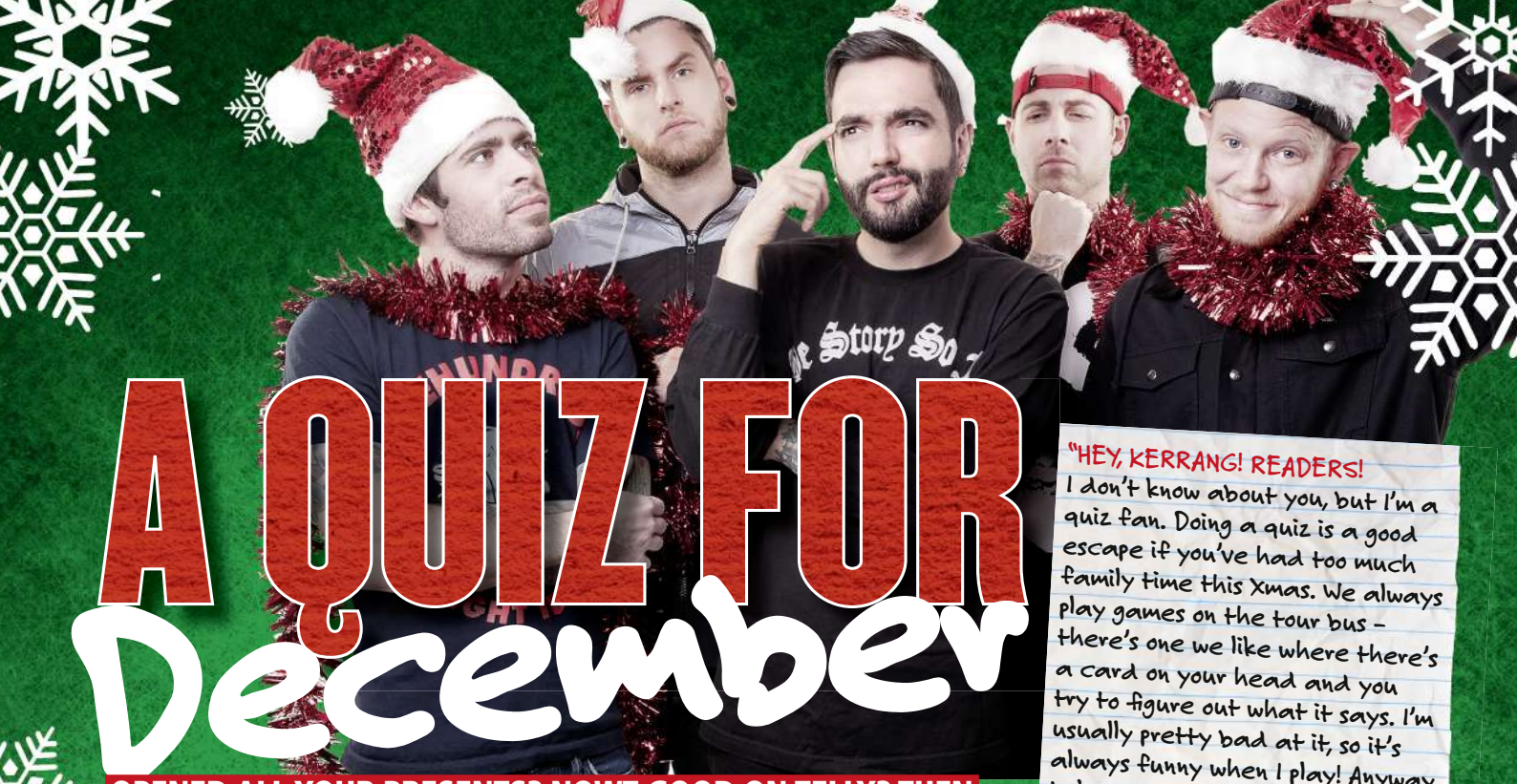
"I'M SCARED OF BEHEMOTH!"
PETER ANDRE



WORDS: RICH PELLEY, NICK RUSKELL, DAN SLESSOR, JENNYFER J WALKER BILLBAILEY PORTRAIT SUKEY PARNELL



A QUIZ FOR December

OPENED ALL YOUR PRESENTS? NOWT GOOD ON TELLY? THEN TRY TACKLING A DAY TO REMEMBER'S FIENDISH KERRISTMAS QUIZ! HEAD TO KERRANG.COM FOR THE ANSWERS…

"HEY, KERRANG! READERS! I don't know about you, but I'm a quiz fan. Doing a quiz is a good escape if you've had too much family time this Xmas. We always play games on the tour bus – there's one we like where there's a card on your head and you try to figure out what it says. I'm usually pretty bad at it, so it's always funny when I play! Anyway, take our damn quiz – you'll be a better person because of it..."

JEREMY MCKINNON, A DAY TO REMEMBER

GAME 1 AND THEIR NAME WAS...

FIVE ROCKSTARS HAVE DONNED SOME SUITABLY SEASONAL DISGUISES – BUT WHO THE HELL ARE THEY? CLUE: THEY ALL APPEARED IN ADTR'S ALL I WANT VIDEO…

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

GAME 2 FOR THOSE WHO HAVE WORDS!

JEREMY
NEIL
JOSHUA
ALEX
KEVIN
OCALA
REINDEER
BRACE FOR IMPACT
SANTA
HOMESICK
LAUDERDALE
CASABLANCA
HEARTLESS
COMMON
COURTESY
ADTR
HOUSE PARTY
END OF ME

T	C	A	P	M	I	R	O	F	E	C	A	R	B	F
O	G	A	L	N	I	V	E	K	L	N	G	G	Y	I
N	X	Z	P	E	U	E	J	E	A	F	Y	Y	T	G
E	Q	J	R	I	X	L	S	E	D	T	A	P	L	O
X	P	Q	V	L	Y	K	R	E	R	N	N	L	H	E
V	P	C	I	U	Q	F	E	A	E	E	I	A	W	W
E	I	U	O	J	M	H	P	Y	D	O	M	E	S	J
E	N	P	Z	Y	S	E	T	R	U	O	C	Y	R	G
Z	D	D	C	A	S	A	B	L	A	N	C	A	S	K
R	U	X	O	U	D	R	U	K	L	O	E	X	L	V
H	Y	P	O	F	A	T	E	H	E	M	P	L	A	A
O	Z	H	T	P	M	L	R	I	S	M	N	Z	U	J
U	F	D	R	D	S	E	N	D	F	O	I	F	J	L
A	H	A	E	R	V	S	F	N	F	C	J	Y	E	B
U	S	E	K	C	I	S	E	M	O	H	C	R	M	Y

GAME 3 ALL I WANT!

CAN YOU HELP JEREMY GET TO HIS BIG KERRISTMAS PRESENT, AND AVOID THE STOCKING FILLERS NO-ONE WANTS?

PHOTOS: IAN COLLINS

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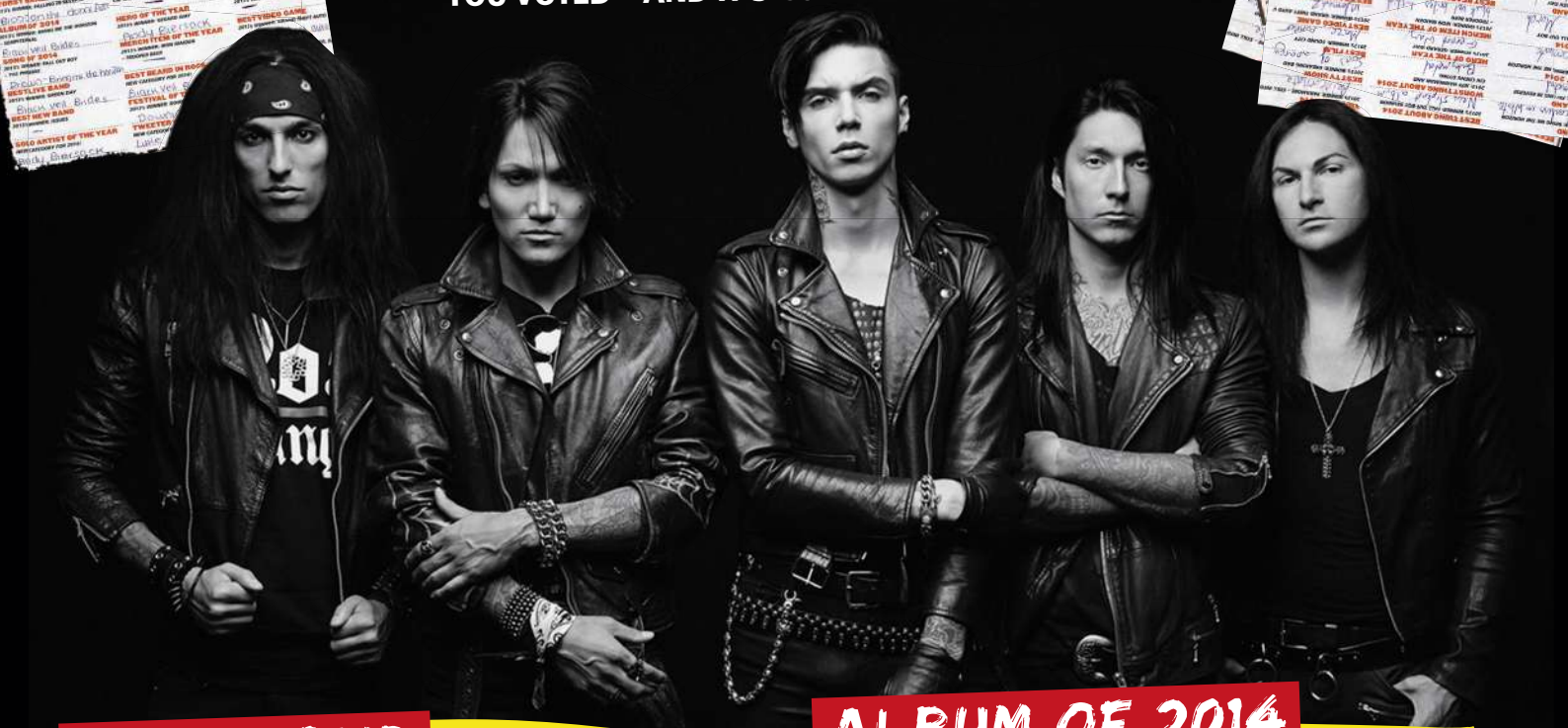
THE KERRANG! READERS' POLL 2014

THE RESULTS!

IN ISSUE K!1545, WE ASKED YOU TO HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE YEAR IN ROCK. THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF YOU VOTED – AND IT'S COME DOWN TO THIS…



BEST BAND

2013'S WINNER: BRING ME THE HORIZON

1. **BLACK VEIL BRIDES**
2. AVENGED SEVENFOLD
3. SLIPKNOT
4. PARAMORE
5. WE ARE THE IN CROWD

K! SAYS: They might be the world's most opinion-splitting band, but you can't deny that it's been a red-letter year for Black Veil Brides. With a storming new album under their belt and the eye-popping Black Mass tour conquering the globe, Andy and the boys look like they're on the brink of becoming a true phenomenon. Don't be surprised if they're following last year's winners into arenas soon…

YOU SAY: "BVB's music simply rocks. They can craft a true stadium-pumping mega-chorus that you just want to shout 'til your voice is hoarse, your soul is singing and you speak in a rasp for days!"
Caroline, Perth, Australia

ALBUM OF 2014

2013'S WINNER: BRING ME THE HORIZON – SEMPITERNAL

1. **BLACK VEIL BRIDES – BLACK VEIL BRIDES**
2. SLIPKNOT – .5: THE GRAY CHAPTER
3. GERARD WAY – HESITANT ALIEN
4. WE ARE THE IN CROWD – WEIRD KIDS
5. ARCHITECTS – LOST FOREVER // LOST TOGETHER

K! SAYS: Produced by the mighty Bob Rock, the man responsible for some of Mötley Crüe, Metallica and Bon Jovi's biggest jams, BVB's fourth studio effort is an absolute beast. Classic hard rock stuffed-to-bursting with choruses big enough to fill Godzilla's Christmas stocking, it's the record to catapult the 'Brides into the big time…

YOU SAY: "I've seen a dramatic change in BVB over the last year or so, and I like it a lot. The band deserve to win because they've gone through changes with style and music."
Sammie, West Yorkshire

WORST BAND

2013'S WINNER: FALLING IN REVERSE

1. FALLING IN REVERSE
2. BLOOD ON THE DANCE FLOOR
3. BLACK VEIL BRIDES
4. 5 SECONDS OF SUMMER
5. SLEEPING WITH SIRENS

K! SAYS: Retaining their title from last year, Falling In Reverse are once again the band you love to hate the most. Famed for his passion for everything from helicopters and Ferraris to Gucci sneaks and eviscerating naysayers, Ronnie Radke's year has been nothing short of a cavalcade of lunacy. The man himself might think the hate has subsided (see p24), but based on this evidence, you've all still got some strong feelings about the frontman…

YOU SAY: "Falling In Reverse continue to be a massive disappointment. They produce terrible music that isn't intended to mean anything or reflect personal experience – it's just to make money. There are so many bands that are better than them in every single way. I think it's wrong that they're even considered 'rock' anymore after Bad Girls Club."
Rick, Kent

VIDEO OF 2014

2013'S WINNER: PARAMORE – STILL INTO YOU

1. PARAMORE – AIN'T IT FUN
2. GERARD WAY – NO SHOWS
3. STEEL PANTHER – GLORYHOLE
4. SLIPKNOT – THE DEVIL IN I
5. BLACK VEIL BRIDES – HEART OF FIRE

K! SAYS: How many world records have you ever broken, huh? This vinyl-cracking, guitar-smashing video features Hayley, Taylor and Jeremy getting their name into the record books so many times that Usain Bolt probably turns as green as the colour on his Jamaican jersey just watching it. Also, the tune itself is an absolute banger. What more could you possibly want?!

YOU SAY: "Paramore deserve to win Video Of 2014 because they're so much fun to watch. Ain't It Fun is one of my favourite videos – the records they broke were really creative and entertaining!"
Zara, Scotland

BEST LIVE BAND

2013'S WINNER: GREEN DAY

1. A DAY TO REMEMBER
2. BLACK VEIL BRIDES
3. PARAMORE
4. ENTER SHIKARI
5. LINKIN PARK

K! SAYS: Come on now, who else brings an entire *house* onstage with them at gigs?! ADTR have continued to scale the heights of bonkersdom in 2014 with their triumphant sets at Reading & Leeds featuring both zorb balls and colossal anthems in abundance. Finishing off the year on a run of euphoric intimate UK shows, you'd be hard-pressed to find a more fun live band in history, let alone in the past 12 months.

YOU SAY: "I voted for A Day To Remember as Best Live Band as I saw them earlier this year and it was the best concert I've ever seen! Jeremy [McKinnon] ran out in the crowd in a giant inflatable hamster ball, and they brought on all the crew and roadies, who started a toilet roll fight onstage!"
Nathan, Widnes

FESTIVAL OF THE YEAR

2013'S WINNER: DOWNLOAD

1. DOWNLOAD
2. SLAM DUNK
3. READING & LEEDS
4. HIT THE DECK
5. SONISPHERE

K! SAYS: Donington Park, metal's spiritual home, came up trumps once again this year. Avenged's headline debut, Linkin Park doing Hybrid Theory, Aerosmith, and Bring Me The Horizon's show-stealing set will all live long in Download folklore. As will our hangovers.

YOU SAY: "Download Festival is amazing every year, but this year was particularly awesome, as Avenged Sevenfold made their much-deserved headline debut, while Linkin Park played Hybrid Theory in full for the first time ever. It was the highlight of summer!"
Isaac, Tilbury

SONG OF 2014

2013'S WINNER: FALL OUT BOY – THE PHOENIX

1. MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE – FAKE YOUR DEATH
2. SLIPKNOT – THE NEGATIVE ONE
3. BRING ME THE HORIZON – DROWN
4. FALL OUT BOY – CENTURIES
5. GERARD WAY – NO SHOWS

K! SAYS: Fake Your Death was a fitting eulogy for a seminal band. A piano-led lament, it captured the hearts of MCR fans everywhere and soundtracked their goodbyes to Gerard, Mikey, Frank and Ray. Will they ever be seen again? Who knows…

YOU SAY: "My Chemical Romance helped me through my adolescent years, and to see them split up [last year] was a real shock to me and many others in the fanbase. Fake Your Death gave the most influential band of the 21st century the send-off they well and truly deserved, after all they've done for me and many others. It gave me closure from the split, and Fake Your Death is yet just another reason that I am proud to be a fan of My Chemical Romance."
Chloe, Portsmouth

WORDS: TOMAS DOYLE, EMILY CARTER

SOLO ARTIST OF THE YEAR

NEW CATEGORY!

1. GERARD WAY
2. ANDY BLACK
3. FRANK IERO
4. CHARLIE SIMPSON
5. SLASH

K! SAYS: For many, walking away from an iconic modern rock behemoth like MCR would have been an overawing experience. Not for Gerard Way, though, as he returned all guns blazing with a clutch of new tunes and a killer live show. Nice suit, too. Very dapper.

YOU SAY: "Gerard wasn't the only member of MCR who made a comeback as a solo artist this year – but his return was by far my favourite. This year has proved that the music world needs Gerard Way."
Nikki, London

HERO OF THE YEAR

2013'S WINNER: GERARD WAY

1. LAURA JANE GRACE, AGAINST ME!
2. GERARD WAY
3. ALEX GASKARTH, ALL TIME LOW
4. MIKEY WAY, ELECTRIC CENTURY
5. LEMMY, MOTÖRHEAD

K! SAYS: An an iconic trailblazer and a brave advocate for transgender rights, Laura has been 2014's shining light. Plus, in Transgender Dysphoria Blues, she penned one of the best records of the year, too!

YOU SAY: "Laura is not only one of my biggest inspirations, but also one of the kindest people I've met. I can't think of a more deserving winner."
Ellis, London

BEST NEW BAND

2013'S WINNER: ISSUES

1. MARMOZETS
2. ROYAL BLOOD
3. BEARTOOTH
4. PVRIS
5. ISSUES

K! SAYS: It was a stellar year for new music, yet Marmozets still managed to stand out as a truly spectacular, special band. Forget the hype and just be glad to witness their unadulterated brilliance.

YOU SAY: "How can you not get lured into Marmozets' frenzy?! They're a breath of fresh air, and will only get better with age!"
Toby, Kent

BEST THING ABOUT 2014

2013'S WINNER: FALL OUT BOY REUNION

1. MONUMENTOUR
2. THE EXPANSION OF SAME-SEX MARRIAGE RIGHTS IN THE U.S.
3. HAYLEY WILLIAMS AND NEW FOUND GLORY DUET
4. METALLICA AT GLASTONBURY
5. WEEK OF FOO FIGHTERS

K! SAYS: Paramore! Fall Out Boy! Together! Two of the biggest bands in the world combined for a three-month U.S. trek this past summer, leaving us all to enviously glance across the pond and wish we'd put more effort into swimming lessons.

YOU SAY: "I voted for Monumentour as the Best Thing About 2014 because, well, it was just perfect, okay?!"
Skylar, Ohio, USA

WORST THING ABOUT 2014

2013'S NUMBER ONE: CHI CHENG AND JEFF HANNEMAN PASSING AWAY

1. UKIP
2. WAYNE STATIC: RIP
3. KIDS IN GLASS HOUSES' SPLIT
4. MALCOLM YOUNG'S DEMENTIA
5. ROBIN WILLIAMS' PASSING

K! SAYS: Here at Kerrang!, we believe rock music is all about accepting people who are different to you with open arms, and welcoming them with the same respect that *you* would want to be treated with. The inexplicable rise of UKIP therefore saddens us greatly – and we're glad you feel the same way.

YOU SAY: "It's not so much UKIP that's the worst thing, or even their policies, but more how, in the space of a few months, almost the entire British public became a flock of sheep, following whatever some drunk bloke said about the EU down the pub! Have we lost all ability to think for ourselves?"
Ben, Ashford

MERCH ITEM OF THE YEAR

2013'S WINNER: IRON MAIDEN – TROOPER BEER

1. IRON MAIDEN – TROOPER BEER
2. DON BREWCO TEA
3. FALL OUT BOY KEY
4. PIERCE THE VEIL HOT SAUCE
5. CANDY HEARTS' IRON MAIDEN T-SHIRT

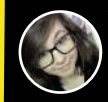
K! SAYS: RUNNN TO THE BARRRR! RUN FOR YOUR LIIIVES! For the second year running, you've declared the Irons' ale to be the finest bit of merchandise in the land, and who the hell can blame you. After all, what better way to enjoy one of the greatest heavy metal bands of all time than with a pint of this deliciously dark tipple. If it's good enough for Eddie, it's good enough for us!

YOU SAY: "It's Iron Maiden beer. What more needs to be said? Not only does it taste awesome, it's got a huge picture of Eddie on the side of the bottle, which automatically makes it cooler than any other merch released this year."
Mark, London

BEST BEARD IN ROCK

NEW CATEGORY!

1. DAVE GROHL, FOO FIGHTERS
2. CHRIS KAEL, FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH
3. SIMON NEIL, BIFFY CLYRO
4. JASON AALON BUTLER, LETLIVE.
5. DANNY WORSNOP, ASKING ALEXANDRIA



YOU SAY: "Why does Dave Grohl have rock's best beard? As Dave himself once said: 'No-one is you and that is your power.' If Dave was a superhero, his power would definitely be his supersonic beard."
Alice, Swansea

TWEETER OF THE YEAR

NEW CATEGORY!

1. HAYLEY WILLIAMS, PARAMORE
2. MARK HOPPUS, BLINK-182
3. LIMMY
4. ALEX GASKARTH, ALL TIME LOW
5. ROU REYNOLDS, ENTER SHIKARI

YOU SAY: "I think Hayley Williams should win Tweeter Of The Year because her tweets are so amazing; she's so beautiful and hilarious. And plus, she's also really inspirational. She's a great person inside and out."
Isabella, New Hampshire, USA

BEST TV SHOW

2013'S WINNER: BREAKING BAD

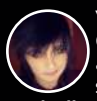
1. AMERICAN HORROR STORY
2. GAME OF THRONES
3. ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK
4. SONIC HIGHWAYS
5. THE WALKING DEAD

YOU SAY: "My favourite thing about AHS is that each series is set in a different location, with different characters. It keeps you entertained and engaged throughout. Usually I'm a massive wimp, but I can make an exception when it comes to this show!"
Nick, Essex

BEST FILM

2013'S WINNER: SOUND CITY

1. DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES
2. THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY – PART 1
3. ANNABELLE
4. GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY
5. THE LEGO MOVIE



YOU SAY: "I think Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes should win Best Film, because the storyline was amazing. It completely blew my mind, to the point where I still had popcorn left at the end of the film!"
Kayla, Ilanfyllin, Wales

BEST VIDEO GAME

2013'S WINNER: GRAND THEFT AUTO V

1. GTA V RERELEASE
2. CALL OF DUTY: ADVANCED WARFARE
3. ALIEN ISOLATION
4. FALL OUT BIRD
5. THE EVIL WITHIN

K! SAYS: This next-gen instalment of last year's winner is awesome. What could be better on a rainy Sunday afternoon than nicking a car and screeching around Los Santos while 30 police helicopters try in vain to stop you? Exactly – nothing! It even features a radio station DJ'd by ex-Circle Jerks/current Off! frontman Keith Morris, so you can listen to some old school punk rock while you smash up the town.

YOU SAY: "Whether playing as Franklin, Michael or Trevor, you're completely immersed into the seedy Los Santos world of carjacking, strip-club-visiting and erm… yoga. The next-gen release of GTA V has only managed to improve on near perfection!"
Gary, Scunthorpe

BEST RADIO SHOW

2013'S WINNER: THE RADIO 1 ROCK SHOW WITH DANIEL P CARTER

1. ALEX BAKER'S FRESH BLOOD
2. THE RADIO 1 ROCK SHOW WITH DANIEL P CARTER
3. THE KERRANG! MAGAZINE SHOW WITH KATIE P
4. ALL TIME LOW'S FULL FRONTAL
5. MOJO ROCKS WITH PHIL ALEXANDER

K! SAYS: Bringing you the hottest new bands every single Wednesday, Fresh Blood is your one-stop shop for all the best bubblings in the underground rock scene. Want to know who the headliners will be for Download 2026? You could do worse than look under the sofa cushions in the Fresh Blood studio – they'll be lurking there, guaranteed.

YOU SAY: "Both The Alex Baker Show and Fresh Blood are great for both the listeners and people in bands. The shows are great for holding your interest and, unlike so many other radio presenters, Alex actually bothers to reply to messages and tweets, which makes the listeners feel more involved."
Kitty, London

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LIVES

...AND ARENAS FILLED BY BRING ME

BRING ME THE HORIZON

PLUS: YOUNG GUNS, ISSUES, SLEEPWAVE

SSE ARENA WEMBLEY, LONDON. 05.12.14

KKKKK

BRITAIN'S MOST IMPORTANT BAND PLAY 2014'S BEST GIG

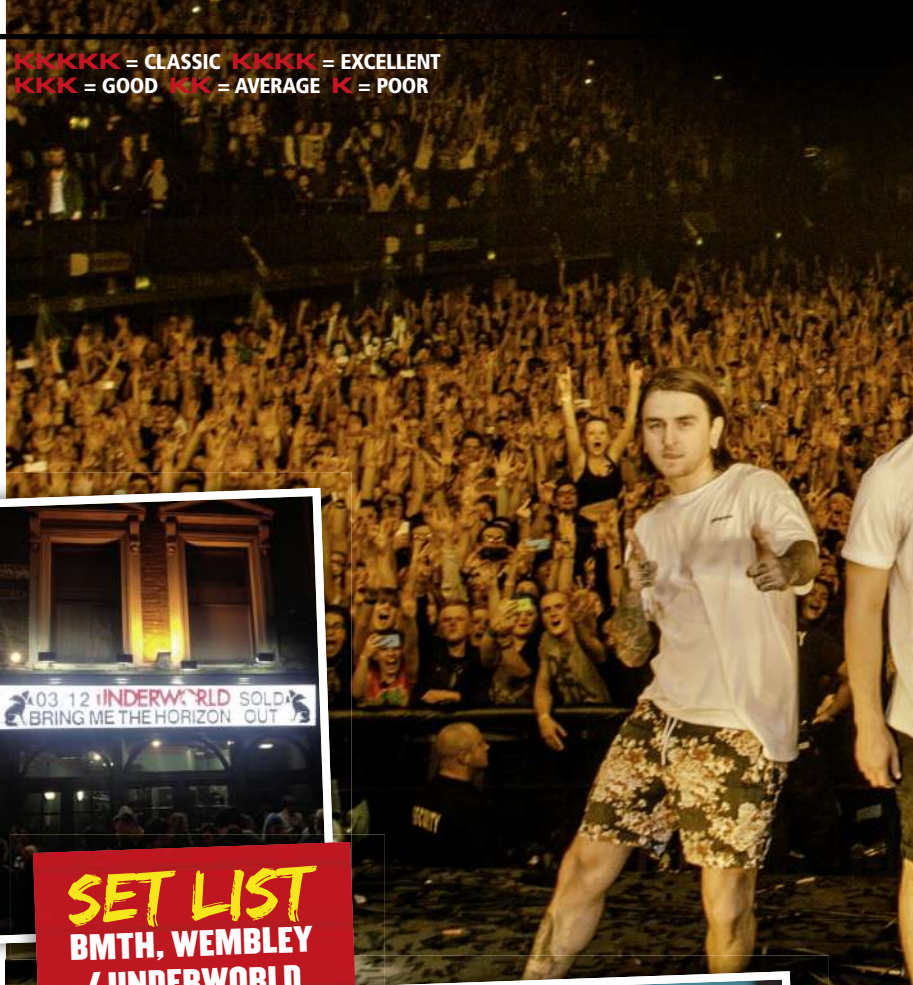
WORDS: JAMES MCMAHON **PHOTOS:** IAN COLLINS / MAX FAIRCLOUGH

THERE'S A moment, towards the very end of Bring Me The Horizon's Wembley Arena show, that isn't as much music as it is bona fide magic. That's actual magic, as practiced by wizards and Pokémon and shit, not just a word thrown about in this willy-nilly media mush world to mean 'good' or 'acceptable'. And, to break the spell down to its constituent parts, it takes the form of thousands of illuminated smartphone screens. They could really be stars, though, with a little suspension of reality – not especially difficult given the feeling of romance hanging heavy in the air this evening. Within the maelstrom of noise all around him, the band's singer, Oli Sykes, visibly choked – "I'm going to cry," he croaks – has to, *has to*, be thinking, 'I did it… *we* did it.' *Has to.*

Oli crouches on one knee before the throng – fitting for a man knighted this very evening as a member of Britain's true rock elite. Behind him, on a raised podium, Jordan Fish – he who's contributed so much to the explosion of musicality fired from the canon of songs Horizon have added to their set in the Sempiternal era – leans into his microphone and softly and repetitively hushes the coda of Hospital For Souls. Before him, in the crowd, the many thousands of believers new and old, so crucial to the spell Horizon have cast, swell the delicate mantra that soundtracks the moment: '*Hold me close, don't let go, watch me burn*', sing the choir, shooing those cursedly vocal snakes into the shadows of the room. "We love you people," says the singer, not a man especially known for letting his guard down and exposing such vulnerability. Oli Sykes looks the happiest he's looked in the 10 years that Kerrang! has known him.

Two evenings earlier, at Camden's tiny Underworld venue, Bring Me The Horizon made peace with their past, inviting former guitarist Curtis Ward onstage for a completely feral version of Pray For Plagues (they do so again at Wembley, and in the process do much to revise the opinion that Count Your Blessings-era BMTH were little more than scene kid poseurs). The band also embrace their future, playing for the first time the anthemic new single Drown – a song that suggests Bring Me The Horizon can now be anything they want to be (well, musically at least; they'd struggle to be a dragon or a banana if they woke up one morning and decided to be so). Alongside A Day To Remember at The Barfly, Bring Me The Horizon's evening at The Underworld is undoubtedly the 'I was there' performance of the year.

Yet if The Underworld will be remembered as fun – fervently so by all who were there – it is Wembley that the history books will mark as the band's golden star; the power-up that took them to the next level. This was the evening the band who've endured and, in truth, often justifiably inspired so much hate – who commendably have never done what was expected of them – were validated in their antagonism. They are, after all, the band who have never played the game. Never let the genre of music they love define them. Never munched at the bait without spitting it in the face belonging to the hand that feeds them. And so, BMTH legitimately became the most important rock band in Britain.

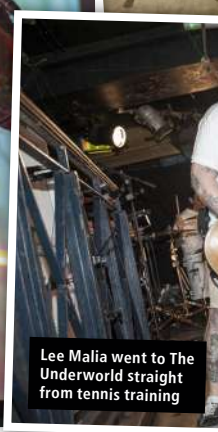


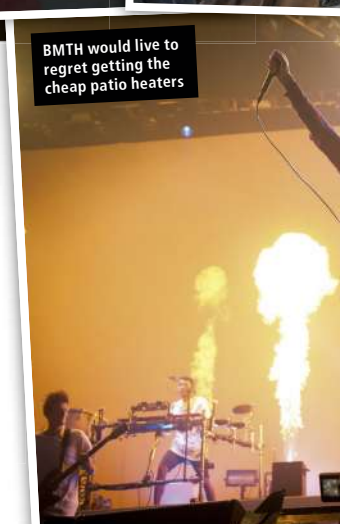
SET LIST
BMTH, WEMBLEY / UNDERWORLD

- SHADOW MOSES
- GO TO HELL, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE
- THE HOUSE OF WOLVES
- DIAMONDS AREN'T FOREVER
- IT NEVER ENDS
- AND THE SNAKES START TO SING
- ALLIGATOR BLOOD
- EMPIRE (LET THEM SING)
- CHELSEA SMILE
- PRAY FOR PLAGUES (*WITH CURTIS WARD*)
- BLESSED WITH A CURSE
- ANTIVIST
- SLEEPWALKING

- HOSPITAL FOR SOULS
- DROWN
- CAN YOU FEEL MY HEART

That pre-gig curry was just not sitting right


Lee Malia went to The Underworld straight from tennis training


BMTH would live to regret getting the cheap patio heaters

It was an odd time for Horizon to practise their cricket umpiring

Dear security bloke: we see you picking your nose

THIS! IS! SUPPORTERNAL!

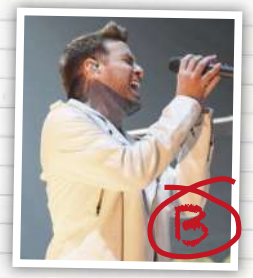
WE GRADE HOW HORIZON'S MATES GOT ON WARMING UP AT WEMBLEY

YOUNG GUNS

"It's been a year exactly since our last London show," says Gustav Wood. WRONG! You did two club shows in the summer! Regardless, in that year, YG have written a killer new song (I Want Out), spawned a new live member, and moved one step closer to a big night of their own here.

ISSUES

We'll be honest: after their rock-free recent Diamond Dreams EP, we didn't know what to expect from Issues tonight. Thankfully, Tyler Carter's R&B rockers make a hell of a noise, albeit with the smoothest singing this side of a Rat Pack exhumation.



SLEEPWAVE

Ever wonder what Linkin Park would sound like with loads of dirt under their fingernails, playing to a slowly-filling arena? BOOM! Sleepwave's enormous nu-metal choruses tickle the back corners of Wembley, while the front rows cop a good dose of sweat from Spencer Chamberlain. Lovely job.

Soon to be seen in the Louvre...

Ex-guitarist Curtis' new career as a Wookiee was going well

Tour de France winner spotted on balcony

CODE ORANGE

OLD BLUE LAST, LONDON. 03.12.14

KKKKK

THE FUTURE'S BRIGHT. THE FUTURE'S THIS LOT

TONIGHT, IN Camden Town, Bring Me The Horizon are playing a secret show in front of just 500 rabid fans. But if BMTH are the established, arena-stomping face of modern metal, in Shoreditch a new beast is rising with a clamourous roar. Make no mistake, Code Orange are one of the most exciting bands on the planet right now. Indeed, backed by this year's I Am King album (which snuck into K!'s albums of 2014 list at Number 14), tonight the Pittsburgh quartet offer up a live show that has to be seen to be believed. With songs such as the devastating Slowburn forged of nasty, antisocial noise, it's not long before CO's boiling rage and demented riffery spill over into a truly vicious, teeth-endangering pit. As burly bassist Joe Goldman oversees the war on the dancefloor with vein-bulging intensity, the rest of his band continue to spew forth doom-laden heavy hardcore from the very top drawer. Immersive, bitter, savage – in short, this is everything punk rock spirit ought to be in 2014. Don't miss Code Orange tearing the throat out of 2015. Because if you want to see the future, it's right here. And it's brighter than a thousand suns.

TOMAS DOYLE

BRYAN ADAMS

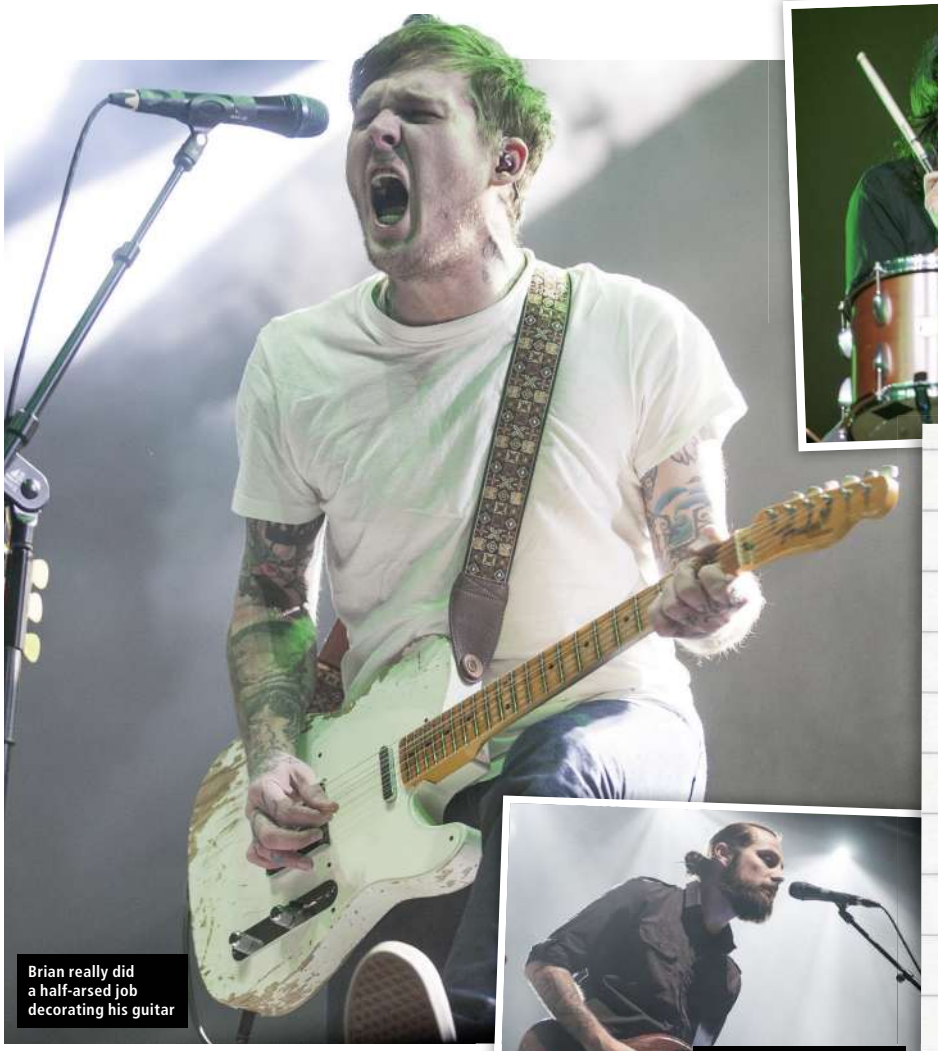
O2 ARENA, LONDON 22.11.14

KKKK

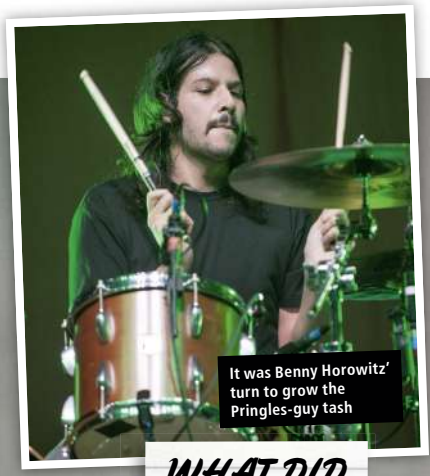
THE GROOVER FROM VANCOUVER GETS RECKLESS

HOW DID you feel last time you spent a third of a year at Number One? Or made Kerrang!'s album of the year, 1985? Or duetted with a Spice Girl and still rocked? There's only one man qualified to answer that. His name's Bryan, and he's rocking 19,000 faces with just a guitar and a killer backing band. Oh, and that album of the year, Reckless – home to immortal nostalgia hit Summer Of '69 – he's playing that in full tonight. AS AN OPENING TO HIS SET. It remains the acme of perfect radio rock, and tonight, massive tunes like Run To You, One Night Love Affair and monster-ballad Heaven are some of the biggest rock tunes ever to fill this venue. And then, once Bryan's finished his best album, he casually plays for another hour doing an arsenal of songs you know, but you might have forgotten you knew. 18 Til I Die is huge. When You're Gone, (the one with Mel C), is tonight batted out minus Spice Girl guest, strummed on an acoustic guitar, but still absolutely skyscraping. And when that enormo-single (Everything I Do) I Do It For You comes out mid-set, it's a masterclass in big-rock perfection. Reckless? No. Peerless? Abso-bloody-lutely.

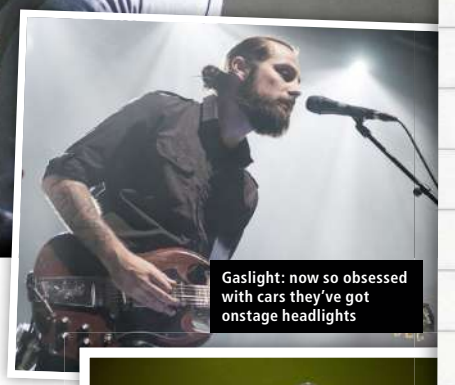
NICK RUSKELL



Brian really did a half-arsed job decorating his guitar



It was Benny Horowitz' turn to grow the Pringles-guy tash



Gaslight: now so obsessed with cars they've got onstage headlights

THE GASLIGHT ANTHEM

PLUS: DEER TICK, BAYSIDE

ALEXANDRA PALACE, LONDON. 19.11.14

KKK

BRIAN FALLON AND CO GRIND OUT A RESULT AT CURIOUSLY LOW-KEY ENORMO-GIG

WORDS: MARK SUTHERLAND **PHOTOS:** IAN COLLINS

"DON'T TALK about football in front of a large group of people," chuckles Brian Fallon, after his mention of Spurs prompts a chorus of boos from the crowd. In truth, though, it's one of the few times passions run high tonight. Most bands play Ally Pally amid an atmosphere resembling the Champions League final; for some of Gaslight's gargantuan set, it feels more like an FA Cup first round replay.

And the supports play to a crowd that can be counted in tens, not thousands. "Do us a favour," plead veteran emo-punks Bayside. "When everyone else comes in, tell them how good we were." Not very, this evening.

Next up, Deer Tick. They're also unassuming, playing '70s-inspired rock that's the opposite of singer John McCauley's hideous suit: tasteful, understated and not likely to get them noticed.

The room fills for Gaslight, though downbeat opener Have Mercy doesn't exactly get the party started. A gaudy light show – so bright, the white-T-shirted Brian almost disappears against its glare – is their only concession to the occasion. Even here, Gaslight remain steadfastly all about songs, rather than production.

And they've got a *lot* of songs: 25-odd are wheeled out and, away from sure-fire hits like The '59 Sound and 45, it gets a bit much for anyone who's not a die-hard Gaslight Anthem season ticket holder.

Fortunately, they eventually rediscover their spark. Anthony Raneri from Bayside reappears to duet on Great Expectations. We're Getting A Divorce, You Keep The Diner is as emotionally devastating as ever. And The Backseat ends things with a flourish – the equivalent of a thrilling penalty shootout after a hard-fought midfield battle.

So, ultimately, tonight The Gaslight Anthem dig deep and win ugly. But at least they're still winning.

Bayside's Biggest Grin record attempt: fail

Deer Tick came dressed as Cadbury Roses

WHAT DID YOU THINK?

PERRY, SLOUGH
"That's the longest gig I've ever been to, but I loved it. Film Noir and American Slang were so powerful live. The new stuff is different but, live, it fits in, and the lights worked really well."

LIZZIE, CAMBRIDGE
"I like that it was a long set; I got really into the flow of it. It ended just in time, though – I was getting a bit tired!"

PADDY, LONDON
"It was great. They really mixed in all the albums and played some unexpected tracks. They played 1930, which I didn't expect them to play, although I was a bit disappointed they didn't do The Spirit Of Jazz. The '59 Sound was their best album, but the newer stuff's good, too."

THE DEFILED

PLUS: AVATAR

RESCUE ROOMS, NOTTINGHAM. 24.11.14

KKKK

BRITISH ALT.ROCK GHOULS GIVE NOTTINGHAM A FRIGHT

HAVING AVOIDED death by frostbite when they became the first band to perform on an iceberg, The Defiled have returned to slay on home turf. Since the release of 2013's Daggers, the band have cut away the fat, upped the carnage, and are now on seething, dangerous form. Before their latest death-or-glory rampage, though, an hour of strangeness from Swedish nutjobs Avatar ensues. A freak show of frantic, frothy metal and tuneless plod-throughs, they're hard to grasp – though, in fairness, they've successfully infected tonight's audience. The Defiled, though, are a band that continue – relentlessly – to improve. Once they seemed on the verge of chaos; now that mayhem is perfectly conducted. The Mourning After lurches with well-practised power, while Unspoken and Sleeper are deadly weapons in the hands of frontmen Stitch D and The AvD. Having recently released an emotionally wrenching video for Five Minutes, their ode to the departed, the song is played tonight to near-silence – of the respectful sort. That they can jump so effortlessly between chaos and serenity proves it: The Defiled's power is hitting a brand-new peak.

STEVE BEEBEE

THE AMITY AFFLICTION

PLUS: THE PLOT IN YOU, HEART IN HAND

02 ACADEMY, ISLINGTON. 02.12.14

KKK

AUSSIES AFFLICT LONDON FOR NOT NEARLY LONG ENOUGH

IT'S COLDER than your ex's heart outside tonight. Freezing. And neither of tonight's openers have enough fire to warm your slowly icing extremities. Take Heart In Hand's lacklustre stomp'n'mope. There's no charisma, no fun, no nothing, and there's not an ounce of bile between them. It's a low bar to match, but Ohio's The Plot In You struggle to even jump that high, their hyper-generic mosh rendered nigh on unlistenable by a click-clack bass sound that eventually feels like Chinese water torture. And so it's left to The Amity Affliction to rescue the evening's dignity, which they do. For a bit. That is to say that, while the Aussie crushers are on, they're rather good: Don't Lean On Me's vivacious rise and fall lights up the venue with ease. But for a band with four albums to play a headline set of just 10 songs (clocking in at a little over 40 minutes) feels like nowhere near enough for a room who sing back every word with flame-throated venom tonight. While they're onstage, TAA are killer. But stay around for a bit longer next time, eh, lads?

TOMAS DOYLE

TONIGHT ALIVE

PLUS: THE SUMMER SET, CHUNK! NO, CAPTAIN CHUNK!

KOKO, LONDON. 25.11.14

KKKKK

AUSSIE POP-PUNKS GET EMOTIONAL IN LONDON. PASS US A KLEENEX…

WORDS: JENNYFER J. WALKER **PHOTOS:** CHRIS CASEY

BANDS PLAYING albums in full is usually reserved for a 10th birthday. But this evening, Tonight Alive are playing 2013's The Other Side in its entirety.

"This is the record that brought us closer to our fans," smiles Jenna McDougall in justification. "It was the perfect time to celebrate, with it being the one-year anniversary."

We quite agree, and kicking off said celebrations are Parisians Chunk! No, Captain Chunk!, whose pop-punk is a little cut-price A Day To Remember, but gets the crowd moving all the same. It's frontman Brian Dales who's moving when The Summer Set hit the stage, with all the fancy footwork of an American Olly Murs. Their pop-rock is a welcome dose of vitamin D on a cold November night, particularly closing track Boomerang, which gets most of the 1,500 gig-goers singing along.

It's a mere pin-drop compared with what happens when Tonight Alive launch into The Ocean, though. The crowd sound like a trained choir, singing each and every word in perfect unison (the result of each individual playing The Other Side to death). But the album sounds very much alive tonight, as the Aussies run through its 12 tracks – each one punchier, angstier and even more intense than on record.

"I've been an emotional wreck all day," admits Jenna after, explaining that TOS came from a dark place, which led her to put up walls when talking about it, until today.

But even after some tears escape the frontlady between the first-ever airings of Say Please and You Don't Owe Me Anything, it's clear she's a different person to the one who wrote the lyrics she's singing. She's confident, strong, and in love with life. And it's all thanks to TOS, which was therapy for her, and for many of the people in this room, helping them through break-ups, health conditions and all the other shit life throws at you. Things don't just look clear here on the other side. For Tonight Alive, they all look absolutely bloody fantastic.

The Summer Set's pole dancing: unexpected

Jenna always went for the biggest hanky she could find

The 'Tickle A Photographer' bit got well underway

Burps really do come up at some bad times, don't they?

Hey, are you Chunk? "NO! CAPTAIN CHUNK!"

5 MINUTES WITH… JENNA MCDOUGALL

(TONIGHT ALIVE, *VOCALS*)

WHAT WAS IT LIKE PLAYING THE OTHER SIDE IN FULL?

"It was indescribable! I worded it [onstage] like I've only had two moments in my life – which have actually happened in the past month – where you just feel complete focus and in complete control of the situation. And I really didn't expect tonight to be one of them. I was so, so anxious and emotional about the show, but, as soon as we got onstage, it was like, 'I know exactly how to do this and what's gonna happen.' Coming offstage was relief and disbelief and a lot of mixed emotions!"

IT LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE GETTING A BIT TEARY ONSTAGE…

"I did! I can't believe it – I've actually never cried onstage before, until tonight. I used to get easily overwhelmed. And since then I feel like I've been able to control myself a little more – I dunno if it's age or experience or whatever, but when we played the show it was like revisiting that time. And it's interesting, 'cause I thought, 'I'll have to flick a switch to get to that point and bring all those memories back,' but I didn't – it just happened on its own."

WHAT'S NEXT FOR TONIGHT ALIVE?

"The main focus of 2015 is our next record. We've been preparing it already for more than a year. But I think, personally, there are more realisations to happen before we can make a record as strong as The Other Side, and the whole challenge of this writing process is to outdo what we've done now. We're gonna take our time with the album."

The ULTIMATE Xmas Sleighlist!

CHRISTMAS SONGS SUCK. BUT WHEN BANDS GET THEIR SANTA CLAWS INTO THEM, THEY BECOME AWESOME. SO TO SAVE YOU FROM A CRAPPY CHRISTMAS SOUNDTRACK, WE PRESENT THE BEST THERE IS, OLD AND NEW!

WORDS: MARK SUTHERLAND

EVIL BLIZZARD PHOTO: JOHN MIDDLEHAM

1 Evil Blizzard
(I HOPE THAT YOU GET) NOTHING FOR CHRISTMAS

New ENTRY

With a name like that, Evil Blizzard should definitely know a thing or two about sledge-friendly weather, while their line-up could belong in The 12 Days Of Christmas ('*Four bassists bassing*', anyone?). But Evil Blizzard's Yuletide offering is about as festive and full of cheer as a night in with Ebenezer Scrooge: a brilliantly grim slab of far-out doom with a scary video and lyrics that make a mockery of that whole 'tis-better-to-give-than-to-receive malarkey. Ignore them, however, and give a copy to the bah humbuggers in your life.

2 Pulled Apart By Horses
MERRY XMAS EVERYBODY

New ENTRY

They should've changed their name to Pulled Apart By Reindeer, but otherwise PABH's version of Slade's classic is perfect. There are cheeky lyric changes about Back To The Future, and a scream that would have even Noddy Holder reaching for the lozenges.

3 New Found Glory
SNOW

New ENTRY

We'd have thought Christmas with Hayley Williams would be a riot. But the latest seasonal offering from Chad Gilbert and co is a downbeat, wistful affair about missing family members at this special time of year. Cheer up, Chad, the sprouts will be ready in a bit.

4 Steel Panther
THE STOCKING SONG

New ENTRY

Cranberry won't be the only sauce this Christmas, thanks to the Panther. No festive double (or single) entendre is left unsniggered over in an Aerosmith-esque acoustic anthem that may just put you off eggnog for life. Thank goodness Christmas only comes once a year… Sorry, they've got us at it now.

5 Kids In Glass Houses
SECRET SANTA

We lost Kids In Glass Houses this year, so this Yuletide note from the Welsh wonders is a bittersweet treat this Christmas. Like an After Eight dipped in gravy. Maybe. Anyway, this is far better than the usual thoughtless rubbish you get in a secret Santa group. No need for us to ask Aled Phillips if he'd mind terribly if we just had the money here.

6 My Chemical Romance
ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS YOU

Yes, it's the Mariah Carey song. Yes, Gerard Way gives it the full diva warble. No, there isn't a video of him frolicking in the snow in a 'saucy' Santa outfit. Their Yo Gabba Gabba! video of Every Snowflake's Different will have to suffice.

7 Lower Than Atlantis
MERRY CHRISTMAS (WHEREVER YOU ARE)

The festive season can render even the hardest man more sentimental than the Call The Midwife Christmas special. Just look at mouthy Mike Duce, sweetly declaring, *'I hope that you get everything on your list'* on this modern Christmas classic. Aw, Mikey, you shouldn't have.

8 Frank Iero
XMAS SUX

New Entry

Any man who calls his album .Stomachaches. is never going to be a big fan of the gorging season. But Frank *really* hates Christmas on this song, spitting, *'You can keep your gifts and your fucking shitty lists'*. We knew we should have bought him that Xbox One.

9 Corey Taylor
X-M@S

'Now I'm no Wiccan commie nut or nothing / But there's one damn holiday that I can't stand', sneers Corey 'Grinch' Taylor here. *'It ain't Hallowe'en or Thanksgiving or even April Fools / But it'll surely make a fool out of every man'*. For the benefit of the less sharp among us, he's talking about Christmas. Oh Corey, have a pie and cheer up, mate...

10 King Diamond
NO PRESENTS FOR CHRISTMAS

A special metal treat for those that know Santa is always just a typo away from Satan. *'I'm dreaming of a white... Sabbath!'* chortles King D, secure in the knowledge that he's on the naughty list forever.

11 blink-182
HAPPY HOLIDAYS, YOU BASTARD

Hark! What sweet carollers are at yonder doorway? Oh, it's blink-182 singing about the joys of festive family rows. *'I'll never talk to you again unless your dad will suck me off'*, they sing, meaning this is probably one to rule out of that Christmas karaoke session with the in-laws.

12 Pearl Jam
LET ME SLEEP (IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME)

You wouldn't expect a man who once declared *'I'm not your fucking Messiah'* to have much of an affinity with Christmas. But here's grinchy old Eddie Vedder, mumbling about the magic of the festive season. Bet normal service is resumed on Boxing Day, though.

13 Halford
CHRISTMAS FOR EVERYONE

Rob Halford's Christmas stocking comes stuffed with clichés. But, despite mentioning kids singing, snow falling, sleigh bells and Santa ALL IN THE FIRST RUDDY VERSE, the Judas Priest frontman's festive effort is – like the snacks your Mum serves before Xmas dinner – cheesy, but somehow irresistible.

14 Fucked Up
DO THEY KNOW IT'S CHRISTMAS?

In which the likes of Andrew W.K. and Tegan And Sara help out on a surprisingly faithful, if much noisier version, of the Band Aid classic. It's a bit of a racket, to be honest, but still way better than Band Aid 30.

15 Nightwish
WALKING IN THE AIR

Santa himself, of course, lives in Finland (that's where Lapland is, festive geography fact fans). So he'd surely be proud of his fellow countrymen's symphonic metal version of *that* song from TV perennial The Snowman. It's certainly better than Aled Jones.

16 Twisted Sister
HEAVY METAL CHRISTMAS

Think you know the 12 days of Christmas? Not until you hear Dee Snider's, er, unique take on it you don't. It features *'Four quarts of Jack, three studded belts, two pairs of spandex pants and a tattoo of Ozzy'*. It's either a new Christmas classic, or Mötley Crüe's shopping list.

17 Breathe Carolina
MILE HIGH CHRISTMAS

New Entry

'Presents! Let's open this shit up!' The festive metalcore breakdown is an underused weapon in the Yuletide arsenal, but is deployed to full effect here. Just don't knock the tree over while you're moshing.

18 Alice Cooper, Billy Sheehan, John 5 and Vinny Appice
SANTA CLAWS IS COMING TO TOWN

Alice, of course, is more of a Hallowe'en kinda guy. But that doesn't stop him giving it plenty on this festive classic, even if in his hands the line *'He sees you when you're sleeping'* sounds absolutely terrifying.

19 Billy F. Gibbons, Dave Grohl And Lemmy Kilmister
RUN RUDOLPH RUN

Oh, to be a guest at Lemmy's on Christmas Day. Apparently his setting-the-Christmas-pudding-on-fire-with-Jack-Daniel's routine is spectacular. As is this debauched, bluesy take on the Chuck Berry standard.

20 Jimmy Eat World
IF YOU WERE BORN TODAY

'If you were born today / We'd kill you by age eight'. As festive opening lines go, it's not exactly *'Are you hanging up a stocking on your wall?'* from Slade's Merry Xmas Everybody. This cover of Low's Christmas cockle-warmer is subtitled Song For Little Baby Jesus, although by the sounds of things here, they wish the son of God hadn't bothered coming to Earth. How festive, lads.

GIGS

STAY ANOTHER DAY... PLZ? :'(

LOSTALONE

THE DERBY LEGENDS ARE CALLING IT QUITS... WAAAAAAAAAAAH!

YOUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOW IS ALSO THE *LAST* LOSTALONE SHOW – ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH A BANG?
STEVEN BATTELLE (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "Yeah, absolutely. We've got people coming from as far away as Japan, and we're not going to let them down! There will be a lot of mixed emotions on our part, because we *are* gutted that it's our last show, but we *love* playing our Christmas shows, and we're determined to make it a celebration for everyone."

ALL YEAR ROUND, YOUR RIDER STATES THE BACKSTAGE AREA SHOULD BE DECORATED LIKE CHRISTMAS – WILL THERE BE HELL TO PAY IF IT ISN'T?
"I'll just do it myself! I'm going to turn it into a complete grotto, and I'll be doing my vocal warm-ups while sat on Santa's knee! It's hard picking the right Santa – part of you wants to know that the guy in the costume is not a weirdo or anything, but knowing that ruins any chance of believing it's the real guy. Oh, the problems I have!"

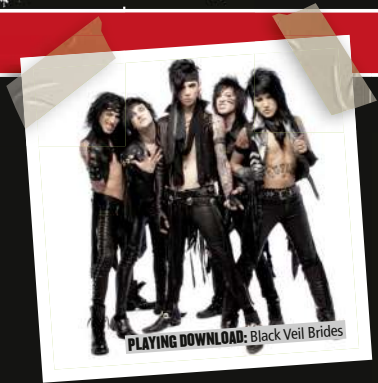
FINALLY, HAVE YOU CONSIDERED CROWD-SURFING IN A SLEIGH?
"I hadn't – but I'm considering it now! That's a great idea, and one that Mark [Gibson, drums] is not going to thank you for! Last year I wanted to be 'delivered' to the stage in Santa's sack, but Mark wouldn't let me. There'll be plenty of tinsel up, too, so maybe I can swing from the rafters like Tarzan – no, like *Santarzan!*"

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

SUPPORT:
TBC

DATES: London Camden Barfly December 18, Derby Venue 19.

JUST ANNOUNCED!



PLAYING DOWNLOAD: Black Veil Brides

AC/DC
Glasgow Hampden Park June 28, Dublin Aviva Stadium July 1, London Wembley Stadium 4.

DOWNLOAD FESTIVAL
Latest additions: Black Veil Brides, Lamb Of God, Billy Idol, Rise Against, Parkway Drive, Hollywood Undead, Clutch, Body Count, Eagles Of Death Metal, Godsmack, Mallory Knox, Motionless In White, Madball, Every Time I Die, DragonForce, Backyard Babies, Crown The Empire, Northlane, H.E.A.T. Donington Park June 12 – 14.

FALL OUT BOY
London Islington Assembly Hall January 14.

ISLE OF WIGHT FESTIVAL
Latest additions: You Me At Six. Newport Seaclose Park June 12 – 15.

LOWER THAN ATLANTIS
O2 Academy Oxford April 10, Newcastle Riverside 12, Glasgow Garage 13, Manchester Academy III 14, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 15, Dublin Academy 17, Belfast Bar Sub At Queens SU 18, Bristol Marble Factory 20, Bournemouth Old Fire Station 21, Brighton Concorde II 22, Norwich Epic Studios 23. Support: We Are The Ocean, PVRIS.

NASS FESTIVAL
Line-up: Enter Shikari. Bath & West Showground. July 10 – 12.

PVRIS
London Camden Barfly April 16, O2 Academy3 Birmingham 18.

THEORY OF A DEADMAN
Bristol Bierkeller April 23, Sheffield Leadmill 24, O2 ABC Glasgow 26, Manchester Academy II 27, Birmingham Library @ Institute 28, London King's Cross Scala 30.

JONO'S TV GUIDE

BACK BY UNPOPULAR DEMAND, THE BLITZ KIDS GUITARIST TELLS YOU THE BEST WAY TO TURN YOUR EYES SQUARE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON…

Can't turn us down, Jono

TUESDAY 23 DECEMBER

WILDERNESS WALKS WITH RAY MEARS, 7.30PM, ITV
I often find myself walking in the wilderness after waking up in a ditch somewhere near Crewe after a night out. If it wasn't for Ray Mears, I'd never have survived.

GAME OF THRONES, 9PM, SKY ATLANTIC
Winter has come. All over my face. I've read all the books, so I know that ****** *** ** **** **** * *******. Sorry about the spoilers.

CHRISTMAS EVE

TOY STORY 3, 6.25PM, BBC ONE
There are very few franchises where the third instalment is the best. This is definitely one of them. The only other one I can think of is Die Hard. Definitely not The Matrix, though. Christ.

THE CABIN IN THE WOODS, 9PM, 5*
I've never seen this film, but renting a cabin in the woods sounds like a lovely way to spend Christmas. What could possibly go wrong?

CHRISTMAS DAY

EASTENDERS, 9PM, BBC ONE
The only way I will ever watch EastEnders again is if Ross Kemp resurrects Tiffany from the dead by performing a voodoo ritual. That episode ruined my Christmas in 1998. RIP Tiffany.

JURASSIC PARK, 3.35PM, ITV2
One of my most favourite things to do in public toilets is sit down and whistle the Jurassic Park theme tune. You always get a great reaction; I've met some of my best friends doing this.

FROZEN, 7PM, SKY PREMIERE
The best Disney movie ever made. Don't even try and argue against it. In fact, it might just be the best movie ever made.

BOXING DAY

MARVEL AVENGERS ASSEMBLE, 8.30PM, BBC ONE
That big flying slug is a bit of a nuisance. Tom Hiddleston and Chris Hemsworth in the same film, though… Man-crush city.

DOCTOR WHO, 8PM, BBC3
My Tumblr dash used to be filled with 'Whovians' posting GIFs of Matt Smith, but now the Doctor is played by a 60-year-old, I'm not really in touch with events.

SATURDAY 27 DECEMBER

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON, 3.10PM, BBC ONE
This lad needs Daenerys Targaryen to sort him out. You can't train a dragon without the mother of dragons.

DON'T TELL THE BRIDE: LET IT SNOW!, 8.30PM, BBC3
I think one of our songs was played on this show once. My mum texted me to tell me. I've never seen it and I don't plan on getting married, so I couldn't care less.

SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER

E.T. THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL, 3.20PM, ITV
If E.T. was set in 2014, then he could use that finger to much greater avail. Liking Instagram photos, completing Candy Crush and defying autocorrect. All he wanted was an iPhone.

MONDAY 29 DECEMBER

BACK TO THE FUTURE, 6.45PM, ITV2
Man goes back in time, rips off Chuck Berry and nearly sleeps with his mum. They don't make them like this anymore.

THE WALKING DEAD, 9PM, FOX
I refuse to watch this show until they kill off Carl. Genuinely the worst character in television history. I'm up to date with the comics, so I can't see it happening soon. But the entire cast is clownshoes.

PARTY HARD!

WANNA GET YOUR ANDREW W.K. ON THIS NEW YEAR'S EVE? THEN HERE'S OUR PICK OF THE TOP FIVE PLACES TO DO IT AT! THE WHITE T-SHIRT AND JEANS ARE MOST CERTAINLY OPTIONAL…

DECEMBER 30

FACE DOWN

LONDON KING'S CROSS SCALA
10PM – 4AM / AFTERPARTY 4AM – 6AM
ADMISSION: £9 IN ADVANCE
What's better than a pre-New Year's Eve night rocking yourself stupid at Face Down? Rocking yourself stupid at Face Down with We Are The Ocean and Your Demise 2004 playing!
MORE INFO: Facebook.com/facedownrockclub

DECEMBER 31

ALPHA: BIG SHINY NEW YEAR

O2 ACADEMY NEWCASTLE
10:30PM – 3.30AM
ADMISSION: £7 IN ADVANCE
With their "nonstop punk/metal/ska/rock onslaught", you're always guaranteed a good time at Alpha. Confetti? They got it! Fireworks? Got them, too! Fire buckets? No, we don't know what those are, either, but they've got them.
MORE INFO: Facebook.com/alphanewcastle

CATHOUSE NEW YEAR'S EVE

GLASGOW CATHOUSE
9PM – 4AM
ADMISSION: £8
We're afraid they don't have any actual cats at the Cathouse, but they do have three rooms of killer tunes, plus a free shot of Jack Daniel's Honey upon arrival. That'll get you in the mood to party 'til you puke!
MORE INFO: Facebook.com/Cathouserocks

BOOTLEGGERS BALL

SOUTHAMPTON HOME & ATTIK
9PM – 4AM
ADMISSION: £10 IN ADVANCE
Get ready to go crazy, because the Bootleggers Ball is going *big* on New Year's Eve! Celebrating the birth of 2015 in suitably loud fashion, you can be sure to hear a party-starting, party-enduring and party-finishing soundtrack! Especially with Beartooth's Caleb Shomo on the decks! Way better than watching Jools Holland with your mum, anyway.
MORE INFO: Facebook.com/uniteventsofficial

NEW YEAR'S EVE @ FUEL

CARDIFF FUEL
10PM – 6AM
ADMISSION: £5 / FREE BEFORE 10PM
If you're a rock fan in the Cardiff vicinity, you *know* that no-one throws down quite like Fuel, so obviously their New Year's Eve party is going to be a beast. Killer tunes, good people, plus a free buffet… yes, really! *And* a glass of bubbly at midnight! We're full just thinking about it.
MORE INFO: Facebook.com/fuelcardiff

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR

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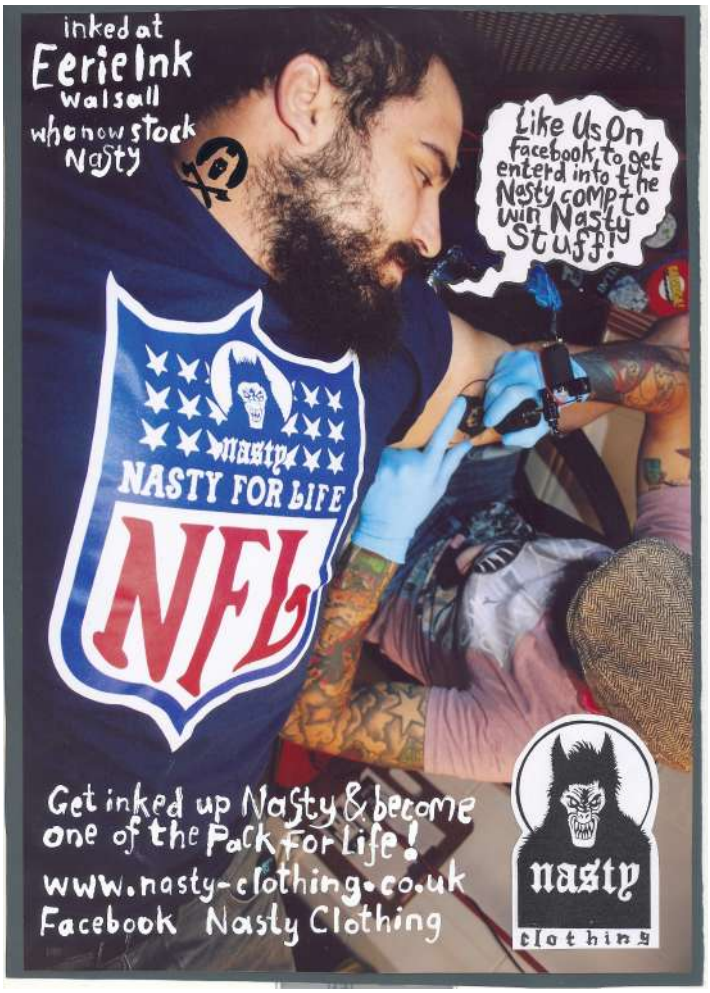

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The Queen's Speech

AS IS TRADITION AT XMAS, ENGLAND'S MOST IMPORTANT LADY SAYS A FEW WORDS. SHARON OSBOURNE, IF YOU WILL, MA'AM…

Dear Kerrang! Readers,

What another brilliant year it has been! I'm sure all of you reading have your own individual best bits, but for me, watching Ozzy and Sabbath in Hyde Park was a phenomenal highlight of 2014. And to see Faith No More back together again – god, it was so perfect! Thinking back now, the summer feels like a lifetime ago, doesn't it, but that's it with life – it flits by so quickly!

We're looking forward to Christmas here in the Osbourne house – well, except Ozzy. He fucking hates Christmas. Every year, me and the kids look each other in the eye and think, 'Here we go again! Bah-bloody-humbug!' It's not that he's tight, – he's the total opposite – but he just thinks it's all commercial bullshit. He even hates turkey, too! 'It's too dry! I fucking hate it!'

"OZZY FUCKING HATES CHRISTMAS…"

Fortunately, Jack usually tries to get him on the floor and tickle him to make him giggle. He hates being tickled, so, in the end, it just makes him even more miserable!

For the New Year, there's talks going on for a new Osbournes show on TV. I hope we do it, I really do. It would be a catch up, mostly motivated by looking back at a lot of the old stuff we filmed and thinking, 'Jesus. I can't believe we used to be like that.' I'd take it as a chance to show how the family has changed over the years, because everything changes with time; we all change.

As far as I'm concerned, Christmas is the one time of year that no-one is working or at school or anything, and you can be with all the people you want to be with. That's the joy of it, really, isn't it: a great time to catch up with family and friends that you don't usually get to see the rest of the year.

It's important to remember those less fortunate than yourself during the festive season, too – every time you turn on the TV, there are adverts for charities with starving kids from all over the world. It can feel like everyone's after your bloody money, but it's a great thing that people are more willing to give to charity at Christmas. It would be good if we could all have that mentality all year round.

And while we're feeling grateful, let's be thankful for music. It's the soundtrack to our lives. We get lost in it, it triggers great memories, and hearing fantastic new music is a wonderfully exciting thing to look forward to. It's a phenomenal gift we should all cherish. Music is our escape in a society which is often full of shit, so hold it close to your hearts and don't let the bastards grind you down.

My very best wishes to you for the festive period, and here's to a wonderful New Year.

Love, Sharon

WORDS: TOMAS DOYLE

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